

Romanian politicians in detention

BUCURESTI (AP) — The new Romanian government said Tuesday the entire parliament of the Communist Party was in detention. "The parliament members are all in detention," Foreign Ministry spokesman Constantin Gherban told journalists. He did not say how many had been arrested or what charges the detained leaders might face. According to official figures, the parliament included 480 members and candidates, among them the President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena who were shot Dec. 25 for genocide and gross abuse of power. A senior commander in the Communist Party, General Voica, said Tuesday that the party was "in these difficult moments" but had to make its legislative official. Voica said he belonged to a group of about 60 Communists trying to rebuild a political force on the left from the ruins of the party, once immorally the strongest in Eastern Europe with 1.5 million members out of a population of 23 million. "We failed to take action to stop the rise of dictatorship," he said. Ceausescu had been allowed to build up a massive apparatus of repression and in the end the party lost all power to the dissent.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

PLO says Shamir sent message

RAGHDAD (AP) — A top Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official said Tuesday Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sent a message to Yasser Arafat a few months ago on a possible settlement to the Middle East conflict. The claim by Ramzan Abu Sharrif, Arafat's political adviser, came on the day that Shamir expected his decision to fire Science Minister Ezer Weizman, accused of illegal contacts with the PLO (see story below). "I wonder why Shamir is making a lot of noise about Weizman's contacts with the PLO when he and other senior Israeli politicians made similar contacts," Abu Sharrif said. There was no immediate response from Shamir. Shamir's earlier firing of Weizman sparked a major cabinet crisis in Israel. Abu Sharrif told the Associated Press that Shamir's message to Arafat dealt with efforts currently under way to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue leading to a peace settlement. He said it was sent a few months ago. Abu Sharrif, who is known to have contacted Israeli officials on behalf of the PLO, declined to reveal the precise contents of the message or say who was the intermediary. He was evasive about contacts Weizman was reported to have made with PLO officials.

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Amnesty: Israel condones killings of Palestinians

By special arrangement

AMNESTY International said Wednesday it feared the Israeli government had effectively condoned and even encouraged extrajudicial killings of Palestinians by its forces in order to help control unrest during the intifada in the occupied territories. The worldwide human rights organization said the evidence pointing to this lay in the existing guidelines for the use of firearms by Israeli forces which might actually permit unjustifiable killing, the pattern of certain killings of unarmed Palestinians and the inadequate investigation of abuse by the authorities.

"We are concerned that taken together these factors appear to add up to more than just tolerance of serious abuses and amount to real encouragement of them," Amnesty International said. In a special report in its January Newsletter, Amnesty International focuses on the hundreds of deaths which have resulted from the use of firearms by the Israeli defence force, the paramilitary border police and other forces responsible for law enforcement in the occupied territories.

These forces have tried to stop the disturbances by shooting at demonstrators, using tear-gas and severely beating detainees — and their use of such force has often

been "excessive and indiscriminate," Amnesty International says. Over 560 Palestinians have been shot dead by Israeli forces since the intifada began two years ago — some 130 of the dead were aged 16 or below and of these about 35 were aged 12 or below. At least 15 more Palestinians reportedly died after beatings by Israeli forces. About 70 more are said to have died in tear-gas related incidents — about half after canisters were thrown into their homes or other confined spaces.

The organization says the scope of the guidelines on the use of firearms has been progressively extended during the intifada. They permit the use of live ammunition to arrest suspects — soldiers are required to fire first about an order to halt, then to fire in the air before firing at the suspect, aiming at the legs. Amnesty International says it is not clear how serious an offence must be for the use of firearms to be permitted. Since September 1989 soldiers have been allowed to treat masked people as suspects and to use live ammunition to arrest them.

Amnesty International is particularly concerned that the guidelines appear to permit the unjustifiable killing of people who are involved in activities which do not necessarily endanger life or who

may simply be wearing masks. Most Palestinians killed were shot with ordinary bullets, although by the end of September 1989 as many as 117 had been killed by plastic bullets. Several others were apparently killed by rubber bullets or "marbles," rubber coated metal pellets.

Amnesty International says the guidelines are reported to be often disregarded by Israeli forces. Although most killings appear to have occurred in the context of demonstrations, in an "alarmingly high number of instances" those shot do not appear to have been involved in any life-threatening or even violent activities. The report questions whether stone-throwing incidents in which people — often children — were shot constituted a serious enough danger to justify the use of firearms.

Some unarmed Palestinians have been killed by soldiers or Israeli plainclothes personnel during operations whose ostensible purpose was arrest. The victims included people known or suspected to be leading intifada activities. Most appear to have been shot when trying to escape. After a number of such shootings Israeli forces have withheld or otherwise hampered emergency medical care for the casualties, Amnesty International says. The report cites a dozen cases

of people killed in 1989 by Israeli forces in circumstances suggesting excessive use of force or deliberate killing. They include: — 'Atwah Huzallah, a university student aged 26, shot dead on Feb. 27 while returning to the village of Deir Ibtz' with four other youths. The group was apparently confronted by soldiers — present in the area following stone-throwing incidents earlier that day — one of whom fired at close range killing the student.

— Samer 'Arara, aged 11, shot in the West Bank village of Silat Al Harthiyah on March 19 after a soldier had opened fire, allegedly without warning, at a group of children watching a convoy enter the village. It is not clear whether these children had thrown stones. The same soldier is said to have wounded another child and then to have swung round to fire at other youths, resulting in the death of Nu'man Jaradat, aged 17.

— Yasser Abu Ghawsh, aged 17, shot dead after a brief street chase in Ramallah on 10 July. He had run away when three men in civilian clothes pulled up in an unmarked vehicle and approached him. They fired in the air and followed him into a side street, where one reportedly shot him several times in the head and back at a range of under 10 metres.

Israelis demolish Jericho home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least nine Palestinians in the occupied territories Tuesday and demolished the house of a Palestinian.

The army said the house was destroyed and two others sealed, all in Jericho in the West Bank. All belonged to members of a unit that killed fellow Arabs accused of helping Israel, the army said.

The army has demolished and sealed at least 397 Palestinian houses since the start of the two-year-old uprising, according to the Israeli Centre for Human Rights (B'tzelem).

The army said a Muslim fundamentalist leader in Gaza would go on trial Wednesday.

Sheikh Ahmad Yassin is

charged on 15 counts, including heading the Hamas movement, inciting violence and illegally bringing money into the occupied territories. He was arrested at mid-year.

Yassin's trial, initially planned for Gaza City, was delayed last week for fear of protests by local followers.

Gaza hospital officials said soldiers shot and injured seven Palestinians. West Bank hospitals said two Palestinians were shot in Nablus.

The army lifted a 24-hour curfew imposed in Gaza Monday to prevent protests on the anniversary of Pateh.

A general strike was observed in Arab Jerusalem to mourn the death of a Palestinian teenager in Al Ram village, north of Jerusalem Monday.

Ala Bader Al Khatib, 17, was shot dead when troops clashed with a group of masked activists of the uprising, during a paramilitary parade marking the Pateh anniversary, an army spokesman said.

Military sources said troops patrolling a village north of Jerusalem fired rubber bullets to disperse 50 masked Arabs. The soldiers captured two, including a wounded youth.

Police said postal authorities had defused 10 letter bombs sent from Cyprus in the past few days and warned Israelis there could be more on the way.

In December 1987, two Israelis were slightly wounded by booby-trapped Christmas cards sent from Turkey. Israeli experts blamed Pateh.

The army clamped a curfew on

the 650,000 residents of the Gaza Strip before dawn Monday and barred journalists from entering the occupied area unless accompanied by the army.

In the West Bank, troops forced 300,000 residents to stay in their homes by imposing curfews on major cities and 13 of the area's 19 refugee camps. They declared all of the West Bank except Bethlehem a closed military area.

Bethlehem residents said soldiers forced shopowners to close their stores shortly after they opened.

Despite the restrictions, pictures of Yasser Arafat, leader of Pateh and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and his assassinated deputy, Khalil Al Wazir, were pasted on buildings throughout the West Bank.

Shamir averts Weizman firing crisis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday cancelled his decision to fire Science Minister Ezer Weizman after Weizman quit the decision-making inner cabinet. The move defused a political crisis that threatened the coalition government.

Shamir summoned Weizman, a senior member of the centre-left Labour Party, to work out a compromise after two days of intense efforts to save the coalition.

On Sunday, Shamir gave Weizman written notice that he was fired as of Tuesday because of contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in which Weizman allegedly divulged secret Israeli strategy that he learned in meetings of the 12-member inner cabinet.

Weizman told reporters after

the five-minute meeting that Shamir had not confronted him with evidence of the PLO contacts.

"Firstly, the crisis is over. Secondly, all attempts to say I am guilty or not I don't accept because for me guilt is a matter of being brought to court or not," Weizman said.

Weizman, 65, a former defence minister who defected to Labour from Shamir's Likud bloc, said that Shamir took back the dismissal letter and said he would write a second one.

The arrangement was worked out before the meeting and finalised in Shamir's office "with smiles and a handshake," Weizman said, adding he would go ahead with a planned trip to Moscow on Wednesday.

Under the compromise, Weizman will remain as science minister in the overall, 26-member

cabinet but will no longer sit in sessions of the inner cabinet where government strategy is decided.

Eliakim Rubinstein, the cabinet secretary and a top Shamir aide, said Shamir would consider restoring Weizman to the inner-cabinet in 18 months.

"The prime minister stressed to Mr. Weizman the seriousness with which he viewed all contacts with 'terrorist' organisations, leading them the PLO," Rubinstein said.

"The prime minister reiterated the government's guidelines and decisions barring contacts with the PLO. Minister Weizman accepted the prime minister's statements and will act according to the government guidelines and decisions."

The centre-left Labour Party had demanded that Weizman not

be ousted without a chance to see and respond to evidence against him and President Chaim Herzog intervened to urge compromise.

Labour leaders were split, however, over how far to go in defending Weizman who has openly advocated talks with the PLO despite government policy against any dealings with the organisation.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was reportedly shown the evidence, told party colleagues Monday he was uncertain whether Shamir "does not have a case against Weizman."

Weizman said the compromise that ended the crisis was worked out by Rabin and Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Labour's chairman. "I'm a party man and I had to listen to my colleagues. It was hard for me, but I had to accept this."

Reputed PLO-Weizman contact refuses to deny or confirm role

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The alleged contact between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman of the Labour Party Tuesday refused to confirm or deny his role but pledged to continue to pursue efforts to bring together "forces of peace" on both sides.

"I refuse to confirm or deny reports that I am the contact between the PLO and Weizman," Tibi told the Jordan Times during what he described as a private visit to the Kingdom.

Although the Israeli-Arab physician, whose name was widely mentioned in the Israeli media as the link between the PLO and Weizman, refused to comment on his alleged role, a London-based weekly, the Economist, quoted the Israeli science minister as saying that he did consult Shimon Peres, leader of the Israeli Labour Party, on telephone calls he received from Tibi from Tunis, the PLO's headquarters.

Tibi refused to comment on the Economist article, which said that he was requested by Peres and Weizman to tell PLO officials to accept U.S. Secret-

ary of State James Baker's five-point formula for a direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and attach conditions if they had any. But Tibi said most of what has been reported in the disclosure of the "scandal" was "part reality and part imaginary." He refused to categorise the allegations.

In what appeared to be a contradictory statement, he said he would continue his attempts to bring together "the sole representative of the Palestinian people, PLO, and people who want peace."

"I will continue my contacts with Weizman and others," he added. Again he refused to specify who the "others" were. As an Israeli citizen, he could be prosecuted under the law of the Zionist state which bans contacts with "terrorist organisations." But the law has proven murky and is enforced selectively.

Tibi said he was in Jordan under a "special permission" from the government after his uncle's death.

An Israeli political crisis over Weizman's alleged contacts with the PLO ended Tuesday in a compromise that saved the coalition government but deprived Weizman of access to wide powers and information

within the coalition government. "I am happy (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir was isolated and forced to retract his initial decision about firing Weizman," Tibi said.

Shamir, who fired Weizman Sunday, accepted the maverick politician's resignation from the decision-making inner cabinet as the price for the reversal of the dismissal order which was to take effect Tuesday. Peres had raised the possibility of Labour leaving the coalition if Shamir went ahead with the dismissal.

Shamir promised to review Weizman's ouster from the 12-member inner cabinet, which sets and adopts major policy decisions, within 18 months.

According to Tibi, one of the reasons which prompted Shamir's move against Weizman was the headline Likud leader's "political isolation, particularly after (Israeli Cabinet Secretary Eliyahu) Rubinstein returned from the U.S. without any concrete results" towards arranging a meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the United States as called for by the Baker plan.

"Shamir wanted to shift attention from this failure to the Weizman affair," Tibi



Ahmad Tibi added.

"Shamir had monitored my telephone and offered (parts of) recorded conversations) as proof to the cabinet to justify his action," he added. "It bothers me to know that Shamir and his supporters know what I say to my wife, but it will not dissuade me from continuing my efforts to bring together the forces of peace."

However, Tibi was emphatic, in denying that there was a dialogue between Weizman and the PLO along the lines reported in the Israeli media. "Everytime it is mentioned that Weizman met with (Nabil) Ramlawi, (head of the PLO's Geneva office), it is imaginary," he added.

Weizman has refused to confirm or deny meeting Ramlawi. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said earlier this week that a meeting was scheduled between Weizman and an unidentified PLO official in Moscow, but the Israeli minister did not go to the Soviet capital as planned.

S. Lebanon clashes claim 10 more lives

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shi'ite Muslim militiamen fought pitched battles for a chain of strategic hills in South Lebanon Tuesday. Police said 10 people were killed and 12 wounded.

The fighting with rocket-propelled grenades, jeep-mounted 106-mm recoilless guns and T-54 tanks raged among the bluffs of Kfar Hatta village in the Iqlim Al Tufah region southeast of Sidon, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said the hills were essential for the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), to ensure supplies to its South Lebanon bases from the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Kfar Hatta is just below the mountainous routes controlled by Israeli troops and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen that link the zone Israel holds in South Lebanon and the town of Jezzine east of Sidon.

The new casualties raised the overall toll to 64 killed and 228 wounded since the current round of fighting erupted Dec. 13, pitting the fundamentalist Hizbollah

against the pro-Syrian Amal.

An Amal communique claimed its fighters repulsed a Hizbollah attack mounted on Kfar Hatta's hills before dawn behind a sustained barrage of artillery.

"The infiltrators who came under cover of darkness were forced to flee in chaos, leaving behind several dead on the battlefield," said the communique, which was issued in Beirut.

The sources said the dead included at least four Hizbollah fighters, including a cleric, and three Amal gunmen.

Black smoke billowed over the villages of Iqlim Al Tufah, their casualties cut off from help because intense fighting prevented ambulances approaching. "The shells are screaming over our heads. All roads linking the villages are under fire," said one reporter on the scene.

In Beirut, overnight fighting with machineguns and mortars erupted between troops loyal to Christian leader General Michel Aoun and rival forces across the capital's green line divide.

First U.S. troops start leaving Panama

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — The first U.S. invasion forces have begun pulling out of Panama, leaving the country largely pacified but with the main target of their mission, ousted strongman General Manuel Noriega, still out of their grasp.

Under pressure to resolve the nine-day standoff with the United States over what to do with Noriega, the Vatican sent a Latin American expert to help its Nuncio (ambassador) in Panama seek a solution to the crisis.

Monsignor Giacinto Berloco, an Italian, arrived in Panama to help Nuncio Archbishop Jose Sebastian Laboa try to end the diplomatic dispute that began when the former Panamanian strongman took refuge in the Vatican embassy on Christmas Eve.

Noriega had been on the run for four days following the U.S. invasion Dec. 20 to oust him. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said two artillery

battalions totalling 141 soldiers began leaving Monday for their homes base at Ford Ord, California.

The U.S. army says most resistance has been crushed nearly two weeks after the invasion by a combined total of more than 27,000 troops. About 13,000 extra troops were flown in to reinforce U.S. forces stationed in Panama.

Fitzwater said the rest of the troop reinforcements would return home as soon as possible. The United States, which wants Noriega tried on drug-trafficking charges, has ringed the embassy with troops and barbed wire but the Vatican refuses to hand him over to the Americans.

Panama's attorney-general Rogelio Cruz has said he would present charges against Noriega Tuesday. He hinted these would be connected with the deaths of 10 officers in a failed coup against Noriega Oct. 3. He said there was evidence the officers were executed.

House session on vote of confidence — genesis of Jordanian democracy

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — During the past three days, Jordan faced the test of change and liberalisation; the government was tested by the Lower House of Parliament, the deputies faced the test of the people but after 48 speeches by deputies expressing a strange mixture of personal grievances, balanced criticism and not-so-balanced attacks and severe accusations, all three parties won.

During the session of vote of confidence, in which Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his 22-member cabinet passed the test with flying colours at the end of the day, the audience of almost 1,500 people clapped with same pleasure and enthusiasm as they displayed when deputies of the House were

levelling criticism and accusations against the government. After waves and waves of harsh-hitting attacks spread over three days, the prime minister turned the tables with a speech in which he confidently met most of the demands of the different political blocs at in Parliament and emotionally defended himself against the severe, and sometimes offensive, accusations made by a number of Parliament members.

"If it was only left to me, by God, I would have left this place immediately but I have listened to accusation after accusation against me personally. Why? Only to make this experience succeed," Badran told Parliament as he began to defend his integrity in his answer to the people's representatives.

Many observers, however, felt that the experience, the first taste of democracy and its intricacies for the Jordanian people and government as well those who actually attended the sessions, cannot exactly be defined as the fruit of conviction-based democratic feelings among the public since the same audience which clapped and applauded while Badran was at the receiving end of accusations also clapped and applauded when he secured the confidence of the House with a surprising majority of 65 votes.

Many criticised the audience for what they called "ignorance and lack of a solid political ideology." Many felt that the people just enjoyed the freedom to listen to issues being debated in the open and clapped for the sense of freedom they felt rather than expressing

support for the orator or his viewpoints and ideas.

Although many of the demands of the deputies from the different blocs were met, the Muslim Brotherhood bloc's demands appeared to figure high in the list of concessions Badran made to the Lower House. Again, a careful study of the premier's rebuttal indicates that it is a matter of interpretation, whether or not the government has "committed itself to meeting the demands of the Brotherhood."

Although Badran did not make a specific reference to the Brotherhood's demand to fully adopt Islamic Sharia in Jordan, he stressed the importance of Islam and the way it should be reflected in the public information system and education and by banning alcohol in public institutions as well as estab-

lishing a specialised Islamic academy "open to all Jordanians, Arabs and Muslims."

A 20-member bloc, made up mostly of Muslim Brotherhood deputies, whose demands were submitted on its behalf by Deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat, gave its vote of confidence to the premier after days of indecisiveness by the bloc itself and confusion of many observers, giving Badran a wide margin of success.

The leftists converged with Islamists and independents in many of their demands, but stood out with calls to establish a union for teachers as well as lifting interest on housing and agricultural loans given to low-income families. The leftists also called for abolishing the anti-communism law, the ban

(Continued on page 2)



Prime Minister Mudar Badran

Experts fight tide of oil off Morocco

RABAT (Agencies) — Pollution experts raced against time Tuesday to contain a 300-kilometre tide of oil before storms could sweep it onto the Moroccan coast in an ecological catastrophe.

Weathermen warned that the unusually calm seas now helping anti-pollution efforts could turn rough within 24 hours, breaking up the slick which has drifted to within 30 kilometres of the coast.

About 70,000 tonnes of crude is thought to have poured from the Iranian supertanker Kharg-5, drifting in the Atlantic off north-west Africa since it was holed two weeks ago by explosions and fire.

The ship, which has been towed some 320 kilometres from the coast, was previously damaged by Iraqi aircraft while shutting oil during the 1980-88 Gulf war.

Officials said 14 aircraft and seven boats, some manned by international experts, were spraying detergents and throwing barges across the path of the mammoth slick.

French Environment Minister Brice Lalonde told French radio the Kharg-5 was still leaking oil and a second tanker was sailing to the scene to try to draw off an estimated 200,000 tonnes still in its hold.

Lalonde, heading a team of French marine pollution experts, said precious time was lost plugging the leak after the 32-man crew abandoned ship on Dec. 19 because of arguments over money between the Iranian owners and a Dutch salvage company.

"They haggled for days and days before agreeing... haggling during the middle of a catastrophic situation, and during this time the tanker is getting closer to the coast," he said.

"It is absolutely essential to find an international way of avoiding this kind of situation," he added.

He said the slick could hit the coast in the next two or three days, depending on the weather, and among the points threatened was Casablanca — Morocco's commercial capital.

The amount of oil that has leaked from the Kharg-5 is double that released when the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Alaska's Prince William Sound last March in the worst such accident in U.S. history.

The spill now covers an area of some 120 sq miles and could spell disaster for some of the world's richest fishing grounds for tuna and sardines. Picturesque lagoons full of oysters and rare wildlife are also at risk.

Some 40,000 jobs could be lost in the fishing industry and thousands more in tourism — two of the mainstays of the economy in an area of a high unemployment.

Experts say the sandy beaches around the tourist centre of Agadir are also threatened and Morocco could lose as much as half a billion dollars in export earnings.

But some experts said the more toxic elements in the slick have already evaporated and the Moroccan news agency MAP quoted one French expert as saying the spill now presented no risk to the coastline.

"The Moroccans have things well in hand," Robert Luigi of Marseille port authority was reported as saying.

Another supertanker some 480 kilometres to the west of Kharg-5 was also reported to be spewging thousands of tonnes of crude.

The 240,000-deadweight Tonne Aragon, registered in Spain, was damaged in a storm at the

weekend near Madeira and according to Portuguese naval sources has spilled 25,000 tonnes.

The Dutch salvage firm Smit Tak reported Tuesday that workers bugged a gaping 20-metre by 30-metre hole in the tanker's port side, but a French official said the vessel still streamed oil.

"We have had no leaks from the Kharg-5 for the last 24 hours," spokesman Daan Kaakebe said at Smit Tak's headquarters in Rotterdam. "We have done some repairs to the ship and we managed to stop the leak."

The Dutch tug Off-Vigo and Fair Play and the Spanish tug Punta Tarifa were towing the ship towards an unspecified location south of the Cape Verde islands in a trip that should take about eight days, Kaakebe said.

Lalonde, interviewed Tuesday on France-Info radio from Morocco where he is assessing the country's needs in face of the crisis, said danger remains that high winds could push the oil ashore.

"If the wind pushes the slick, it could reach the coast in two or three days," Lalonde said. Morocco is a former French colony.

Experts from the oil spillage response centre in Southampton, England, laid 1,000 metres of boom cable to protect the community, whose main industry is oyster farming.

Also threatened were the rich fishing grounds at Safi, a migratory bird reserve and flamingo breeding ground at Moulou Bousselmah, and the popular tourist beaches at Agadir.

The main body of the slick threatens and area at Mehdiya north of Rabat, the capital, to Mohammedia in the south, the French TV station La Cinq reported Monday.



ANTI-PEACE ACTION: Israeli policemen drag away a Palestinian woman after violently breaking up a rally for peace in occupied Jerusalem last week.



Ali Nasser Mohammad

S. Yemeni exiles to form party

SANAA (R) — Exiled South Yemeni politicians have said they will form a new party after their leader, former President Ali Nasser Mohammad, said he was quitting politics.

The politicians, based in North Yemen, said in a statement Monday that they would set up a united democratic party that would back plans to unite the two countries.

The Marxist-ruled South and conservative-ruled North plan to unify their countries under a draft constitution signed on Nov. 30.

Nasser Mohammad said Sunday he was quitting politics in the interests of Yemeni unity.

He fled to Sanaa in 1986 with 30,000 followers after he was ousted in factional fighting within the ruling Socialist Party.

South Yemen's first legal opposition party, the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, was set up last month under moves towards a pluralist political system.

Islam gained in 1989, Iranian paper asserts

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper Tuesday said 1989 brought big gains for Islam, citing demands for religious freedom in the Soviet Union and China and a call for British novelist Salman Rushdie to be killed for blasphemy.

IRNA news agency quoted Kayhan International daily, as also welcoming the dropping of a ban on Muslim headscarves in Turkish universities and greater freedom for Bulgarian Muslims under a new government in Sofia.

Calls for religious freedom were growing in the Soviet Union and China, which have Muslim minorities, Kayhan said in an editorial.

In Iran, a smooth transition of power after the death of supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in June had "left the West gasping," Kayhan said.

Khomeini in February called for Rushdie to be killed for writing "The Satanic Verses," which many Muslims regard as blasphemous.

IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Kayhan as hailing the death threat against the Indian-born writer, who is now in hiding in Britain.

The paper also welcomed the political upheaval in Eastern Europe and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

"America is no longer the superpower she was and is entangled in a drug war, AIDS, political scandals and an economic crisis," Kayhan added.

In an editorial, IRNA compared U.S. troops searching the residence of the Nicaraguan ambassador in Panama to the 1979 seizure of the American embassy in Tehran.

"The same country which raised a hue and cry over the

justifiable revolutionary move of 1979 in Iran, is now ignoring all principles of international agreements and norms of conduct and simply explaining away its behaviour as a mistake," IRNA said.

U.S. President George Bush called the search of the ambassador's residence a "screw-up" and apologised for the incident, but questioned what the numerous weapons found by troops were doing in the home.

Iranian students seized the American embassy in Tehran in November 1979 following the revolution and held 52 employees hostage for 444 days.

In a related development, the daily English newspaper Tehran Times praised the Iranian parliament for asking Pope John Paul II not to hand over Noriega.

But the paper said 140 members of the Majlis, or parliament, who made the appeal Sunday should have been clearer in not linking their action to Noriega himself.

"The deputies would have done a better job had they explained the intention behind their appeal more clearly that would have left no doubt for any one that the appeal is meant to support the Panamanian nation in their anti-U.S. struggle and is not in any way a backing for the person of Noriega," IRNA quoted the paper as saying.

The U.S. invaded Panama on Dec. 20 to topple the government of Noriega, wanted on drug trafficking charges in the United States.

Noriega sought sanctuary in the Vatican embassy. A search of his many residences has turned up drugs, a picture of Adolf Hitler and blood apparently used in voodoo rites.

El Al flight brings Soviets to Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The first direct flight from Moscow to Tel Aviv on Israel's El Al airline arrived Monday bearing 125 Soviet immigrants.

The immigrants joined the special El Al flight on its return trip after it had brought the Habima National Theatre to the Soviet Union, and officials say it is a step towards regularly scheduled direct flights between the two countries.

Israel has been seeking direct flights and signed an agreement with the Soviet Union last month to begin them early this year.

El Al President Rafi Har-El greeted the 125 immigrants at the airport and said he now hoped the regularly scheduled flights will begin soon.

Direct flights would be a key to increasing the number of Soviet immigrants to Israel, which officials were predicting to number between 30,000 and 50,000 in 1990 as a result of liberalised emigration laws and new U.S. immigration restrictions.

Also Monday, an Israeli immigration agency reported that 71,509 Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1989, the highest total in about two decades.

Of the emigrants, 11,994 have

settled in Israel, the largest number since the early 1970s, according to figures released by the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental organisation funded by Jews from overseas that assists the newcomers in Israel.

The 125 immigrants, who had originally waited in Moscow for 10 days to come to Israel via Romania before joining Monday's special flight, sang Hebrew songs of joy and broke into dance at the Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

Adin Goldberg, a 25-year-old electrical engineer, expressed his joy at being in the country on Israel Radio.

"I want to work here and to live here and if need be to defend here," he said in broken Hebrew.

"In every place there are problems, but I want my problems to be here. In my heart I won't have to keep thinking if there will a pogrom here," he said.

As many as 300,000 Soviet immigrants are expected here in the next three years. The cost of settling the immigrants is estimated at about \$3 billion, of which Jewish Americans and other Jews abroad are expected to contribute about \$500 million.

10,000 Bulgarians protest against ethnic Turks' rights

SOFIA (R) — Up to 10,000 Bulgarians demonstrated in the southern town of Kurdzhali against a decision to grant religious rights to local ethnic Turks and allow them to use their Muslim names, Bulgarian Television said Tuesday.

The protesters in Kurdzhali, all of them Bulgarian, took to the streets Monday demanding a referendum on the fate of the country's ethnic and religious minorities, the television said.

Local Communist officials in the town, 250 kilometres south of Sofia, had defied a decision of the Communist Party's ruling central committee last week to reverse a policy of assimilation against the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks and 200,000 Bulgarian Muslims.

The local party secretary, Milcho Milchev, said politburo member Andrei Lukin was to visit the town Tuesday to look into the situation.

The Bulgarian residents of the

town of 50,000 argued that the Communist leadership in Sofia did not consult the people when it decided to give the Turks back their "ethnic freedom."

An assimilation drive under disgraced leader Todor Zhivkov had forced Muslims in Bulgaria to swap their own names for Bulgarian ones and abandon their religion.

Kurdzhali has traditionally been run by the most conservative Bulgaria's local authorities. It was the scene of mass protests by the Turkish minority against assimilation.

Some 300,000 ethnic Turks fled to Turkey last year after several were reported to have died when police suppressed peaceful protests for Muslim rights.

Lukinov is a reformist elevated to full politburo membership under the new Communist Party leader Petar Mladenov following his purge of old guard conservatives from the party.

Sudanese government frees 36 detainees

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Sudanese military government has released 36 political detainees, Information Minister Ali Mohammad Shummo announced Monday.

In a statement to the official Sudan News agency, Shummo said the 36 detainees, who were released Sunday, "are welcome to join the march of the revolution."

The release coincided with the country's 34th independence anniversary celebrations Sunday.

There was no prominent figure among those freed Sunday. Former Prime Minister and head of the Umma Party, Sadeq Al Mahdi and Ibrahim Nugeid, the secretary general of the Communist Party, are still in detention.

Hassan Turbabi, the secretary general of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front and Mohammad Osman A'Firmighani, of the Democratic Unionist Party have been released from detention late last year but were placed under house arrest.

Senior journalists quit Jerusalem Post in dispute

TEL AVIV (AP) — Senior journalists at the Jerusalem Post have resigned after a long-simmering dispute with the publisher.

Ten editors and reporters, including managing editor David Lamasan, sent letters of resignation to Canadian owner David Radler. Their resignations came one week after the departure of the top editor, Erwin Frenkel. Frenkel left he quit because his editorial authority had been undermined by the publisher, Yehuda Levy.

The paper's editorial staff filed notice of a labour dispute Thursday, which would allow them to take action, including a strike or work slowdown, after a two-week waiting period. They are demanding Levy's removal.

In their letter to Radler, the journalists said they had no choice to resign because of "an ever-increasing erosion of editorial independence accompanied by an assault on the editorial line which the paper has embodied since its establishment in 1932."

Ethiopian officers on trial

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Twenty-one military and police officers accused of complicity in a May 16 coup attempt against President Mengistu Haile Mariam were arraigned a military court Tuesday.

The officers were the second group of security officials to appear before the three-man military panel for alleged involvement in the coup.

During the preliminary hearing, 10 of the accused asked the court to appoint lawyers for them, while the others said they would arrange for their own defence.

Presiding judge Major-General Kebele Yiba, a military adviser in the office of the president, adjourned the trial until Jan. 11 to allow the defendants time to secure attorneys.

Meanwhile, the trial of the first 14 officers to appear before the tribunal resumes Thursday.

Those officers, who include

five major generals, one rear admiral and eight brigadier generals, have twice appeared in court. At their last appearance Dec. 26, prosecutors said they would seek penalties ranging from 10 years imprisonment to death.

The defendants' lawyers have objected to all charges against the officers and argued the court has no jurisdiction to try them.

None of those on trial is among the six generals identified by the government as the ring leaders of the failed coup. Four of them were killed in three days of fighting, one was arrested and the sixth escaped the country.

Rebels claim taking town

Ethiopian rebels claimed the capture Tuesday of a government-controlled town in central Ethiopia as they pushed southward towards Addis Ababa.

In a clandestine radio broad-

cast, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) said it captured the town of Jihur after a "fierce offensive" it launched Sunday.

Jihur is 112 kilometres north-east of Addis Ababa.

The EPRDF is a combined force of the Tigre People's Liberation Front and the smaller Ethiopia People's Democratic Movement (EPDM). They have been fighting since 1974 against the government.

The rebel broadcast gave few details of the weekend fighting, only saying a brigade and a company of government troops were "taken apart."

The broadcast, monitored in Nairobi, made no mention of rebel casualties.

It was impossible to immediately verify rebel claims. But Western diplomats in Addis Ababa say previous rebel claims appear to be true.

Badran said in his answer to the demands of the deputies.

The annulment of the defence law and other extraordinary laws, a demand made by a number of leftist and independent deputies, will be studied "and we will work on their abolition or amendment in a proper manner in accordance with the new democratic life which we all strive to achieve," Badran said.

"Living in a democratic society makes it incumbent upon all citizens to respect the law and cooperate to build the society in which every citizen will find his/her rights protected without stepping on the rights of others or touching upon their sensitivities," Badran said.

Badran pledged to reinstate all civil servants expelled from their jobs for security reasons and said he would reconsider the applications of people who applied for jobs but were not employed for the same reasons.

"The government will work on reinstating those expelled from universities and government institutions for security reasons and will open opportunities for employment," Badran said.

He added that the government would ensure the non-interference by security authorities in government employment and education scholarships as well as licensing of unions, charitable societies, clubs, professional associations and private institutions.

Badran also detailed the government's programme for economic reform, including ways to solve the unemployment problem and curb rising prices and disclosed the exact figures of Jordan's national debt since the founding of the Kingdom in 1921.

Democracy and freedom as defined by the dictionary may not yet apply to the Kingdom's new era, but Badran's patience throughout the barrage of speeches contained attacks on his background as head of the intelligence department as well as questions on his holdings, established the first moves towards establishing a step-by-step liberalisation of Jordan to be carried as example to the Middle East.

Vote of confidence session — genesis of democracy

(Continued from page 1)

on political parties and the press and publication law.

What is considered as a major point of success for leftists and many independents (who represent low-income families and poor small farmers), is the government's pledge to charge those benefiting from housing and farming loans "the actual government cost to establish these projects and servicing them."

The premier went beyond the demands made by the deputies on this issue by pledging to study the possibility of establishing an insurance scheme for agricultural produce against natural disasters.

Another major demand of

the leftists and several independents and Islamists was for public elections for the posts of mayor in the capital Amman and other cities such as Zarqa whose mayor has always been appointed to the post rather than elected as in other areas of the Kingdom.

Although almost all the leftists in Parliament were expected to withhold their confidence in the government, the choice of six leftist deputies to abstain rather than withhold their vote was seen by observers as "an indication that the leftists have found a good response from Badran over their demands an expect to go further with him in office."

The abolition of martial law in Jordan figured high on the

list of demands of almost all deputies and many insisted that the premier place a time limit of no more than six months for its cancellation.

Badran responded to this demand by announcing that the government would "end martial law and erase its negative effects in a period of four to six months."

He pledged to give the civilian authority jurisdiction over crimes which were handled by military courts under military law.

"I look forward to your cooperation on an issue which is closely associated with martial law... to support the judiciary completely to enable it to rise to the responsibility it will carry when martial law is abolished,"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
15:50 Educational programme
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Cairo news message
16:10 Local programme
16:15 News in Arabic
16:20 Arabic series
16:25 Arabic programme
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Play "Pena"

PROGRAMME TWO

16:40 Documentary
16:45 News in French
16:50 Varieties
17:00 News in Hebrew
17:05 News in Arabic
17:10 Baby Boom
17:15 The Hope of Progress
17:20 News in English
17:25 Film Days

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:30 Dhuhr
14:23 'Asr
16:46 Maghrib
18:29 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 510740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Assumption Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
American Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Nicholas Church Tel. 771751
Assumption International Church Tel. 683226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be Wednesday affected by a depression. This it will be partly cloudy to cloudy with ex-

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

ABMAM
Dr. Nabil Al Mahdawi 628252
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jaber 775020
Dr. Abdul Rahman Ahmad 744685
Dr. Issa Abu Haidar 637123
Fadwa pharmacy 776306
Al Azara pharmacy 637035
Nabouk pharmacy 636272
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Vaccines pharmacy 644945
Shamsat pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 840402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Ambulance 897467
Ambulance 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RU Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Agade (RJ)
09:20 Cairo (RJ)
09:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Dhahran (RJ)
09:35 Larnaca (RJ)
09:40 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Riyadh (RJ)
09:50 Beirut (RJ)
09:55 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
10:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
10:05 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:35 Dubai (AZ)
08:40 Baghdad (IA)
08:45 Cairo (AS)
08:50 Jeddah (SV)
08:55 Sam's, Jeddah (YY)
09:00 Baghdad (LN)
09:05 Kuwait (KU)
09:10 Athens, Istanbul (TK)
09:15 Frankfurt (LH)
09:20 Damascus (AF)
09:25 Paris, Damascus (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apples 420 / 380
Bananas 430 / 400
Bananas (Mukammal) 400 / 350
Beans 330 / 270
Cabbages 100 / 50
Carrots 220 / 180
Cauliflower 150 / 100
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 320 / 270
Dates 520 / 450
Eggplants 160 / 120
Garlic 800 / 700
Potatoes 200 / 150
Lentils 200 / 150
Macaroni (large) 100 / 70
Macaroni (small) 180 / 120
Milk 220 / 180
Onion (green) 180 / 120
Onion (white) 200 / 150
Orange (Shamouni) 280 / 240
Pepper (red) 230 / 180
Pepper (green) 220 / 180
Potatoes 130 / 100
Sage 450 / 400
Spinach 100 / 50
Tomatoes

Meeting Islamists part of the way

By Mariam M. Shalabi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the tables turned Monday the Muslim Brotherhood bloc gave an almost solid vote of confidence to the government of Mudar Badran.

Since the election fever began in October, the press has played up the role of the Brotherhood as the "sole" opposition bloc in the legislative body.

In a "loaded" two-hour response, as one observer put it, to three days of demands and attacks, Prime Minister Mudar Badran indicated that he was willing to consider the terms that Brotherhood spokesman Abdul Latif Arabayst had set as the bloc's terms for a vote of confidence.

Topping the Brotherhood's 14-point list of conditions was the application of the Islamic Sharia in education, social affairs and the economy. The "number 1" Brotherhood condition was one of the few on the list that the Prime Minister did not directly respond to.

One stood out

With the sole exception of Amman Deputy Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant, all other Brotherhood members gave a vote of confidence to the Badran government. As many of them voiced their "yes", they added that their votes came as a result of Badran's acceptance in principle of their terms.

Sheikh Abu Zant's deviation from the Brotherhood's main-

stream viewpoint was seen as a breakaway move by some observers. Although originally seen as a major influence on pious co-religionists, Abu Zant seems to have provoked the wrath of some of his colleagues and his membership in the bloc was in question. "I continue to vote as an individual, contrary to the bloc's consensus, he will automatically cease to be part of the bloc," Arabayst told the Jordan Times Tuesday. "We have not discussed the matter with him yet however," he added.

Abu Zant's two-hour speech was considered by observers to be the epitome of a rejectionist stand, which left no room for compromise.

His misphrased comments about gerrymandering were misunderstood by some to mean something quite different causing a subsequent uproar in the chamber. His fellow deputies voted to have his entire speech stricken off the record as part of the parliament's commentary on the government's programme.

An official announcement by the Brotherhood was published Tuesday in all Arabic language dailies saying the bloc had voted for the Badran government because the prime minister had agreed to meet many of their demands. The statement also said that the Brotherhood had voted in order to safeguard the democratic experiment and the stability of the country. The Brotherhood added, however, that it reserved the right to call for a vote of confidence at any

time if they saw the government's action moving contrary to its avowed pledges.

To 24 they grew

Although Arabayst had only spoken on behalf of 20 Brotherhood and non-Brotherhood deputies, three of the bloc's members, on whose behalf the spokesman had not spoken, also voted for the government.

"There was a general consensus among the Brotherhood members and most Islamists that if our bloc's terms were met that we would all give the government a vote of confidence," Arabayst said Tuesday.

Irbid Deputy Yousef Khasawneh and Maan Deputy Yousef Al Atham, who did not run on the Brotherhood ticket during the Nov. 8 elections, are now officially part of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in Parliament, according to Khasawneh. Their names were among the 20 that were mentioned by Arabayst.

Several of the Brotherhood's terms asked by other parliamentarians who are not associated with the Brotherhood or the Islamic trend in the Lower House. The demands concerned public freedoms and rights. The bloc's other demands were seen as "Islamic demands," only some of which seasoned government observers judged as feasible.

The 14 demands set by the Brotherhood were as follows:

- 1) The application of Islamic laws in education, social affairs and the economy.
- 2) The reinstatement of those dismissed from their university and government posts for security reasons.
- 3) Limitation of the influence of the intelligence service in the hiring and firing of citizens to government and university posts and curbing its interference in promotions in education (through scholarships), the granting of government permissions or allowing charitable organisations.
- 4) The lifting of martial law within six months.
- 5) Continued support of the intifada.
- 6) Support of all liberation movements against "imperialism," especially the one in Afghanistan.
- 7) Application of laws that would curb corruption.
- 8) A demand that all Jordanian public and private holdings outside the country be returned to Jordan.
- 9) Encouraged stringency in government spending.
- 10) Abolishment of interests given on small loans in the agricultural sector and housing loans.
- 11) Permit for teachers to create a teachers union which would protect their rights.
- 12) Establishment of an Islamic law faculty at Yarmouk University.
- 13) A ban on production and sale of alcohol by Muslims and that alcohol consumption be forbidden in government departments and on the national airline — Royal Jordanian.
- 14) The establishment of a national Islamic university.

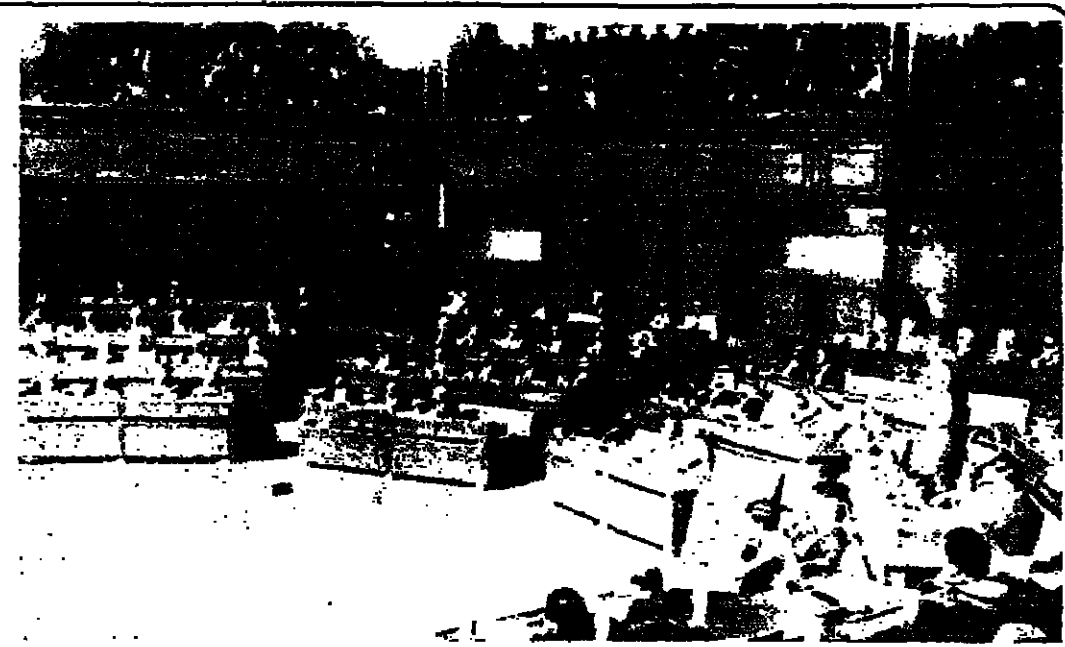
Role change?

Some observers saw the granting of greater public freedom by the prime minister as an attempt to "win over" the Brotherhood and other parliamentarians.

An observer who has been watching the parliamentary scene in Jordan since the 1950s saw the Brotherhood as a "mild threat" to the establishment and the government. "The demands they made in their statement were not demands made by an opposition of the established order," said one seasoned political observer.

"The Brotherhood has been tolerated by the government long before His Majesty King Hussein introduced democracy to Jordan. In the 1950s the Brotherhood was seen as an ally of the state in the face of a strong leftist opposition," the observer said. "Things have changed somewhat because the government has changed and Jordan has changed. The massive popular support that the Brotherhood and Islamists received in the Nov. 8 elections indicated that the movement was one which had more than government endorsement. It had developed 'grassroots support'. The movement's successful election tactics, some of which deliberately undermined nationalist and leftist candidates by sometimes openly backing alternative candidates, indicated that they were still, 30 years later, a counterweight to the left," he added.

While some may disagree with such an analysis, one



The Lower House in session Monday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

source close to the government said: "When push came to shove, the prime minister granted many of the changes asked for by members of the parliament — Islamists, leftists, traditionalists and independents alike. The Islamists were, let us say, pleased. Of course, they say that they still may oppose, but that is unlikely. The only group or bloc which denied the government the vote of confidence or abstained were the democratic bloc — i.e. the leftists and the nationalists. So the forces of the opposition have not really changed, have they?" asked the source.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Brotherhood spokesman Arabayst said that he did not expect that the bloc would oppose the ministership of any member of the government. "Unless they do something we object to we do not oppose the

appointment of any of the ministers," he said.

Indications prior to Monday's confidence vote were that the Brotherhood may object to up to four members of the Badran cabinet, according to parliamentary sources.

Although most of the Brotherhood deputies rode to Parliament through blistering attacks on the government of Zaid Rifai in particular and government practices in general, their criticism was seen as "mild" when compared to comments made by other deputies during speeches made Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Two Islamist deputies, both of whom had harshly attacked both the Rifai government and the background of Mudar Badran, took the session by surprise Monday. Amman Deputy Sheikh Yacoub Qarash voted in favour of the govern-

ment saying: "I give my vote of confidence to the government although I am not entirely convinced." Previously, the Arabic press had said that Qarash would abstain from giving the government his vote of confidence.

Observers noted that Qarash may have been influenced by his supporters and associates at the Dar Al Quran Islamic Society who published a note in the form of an announcement on the front page of the Arabic daily Al Rai Monday saying they "disapproved and disagreed" with Qarash's remarks vis-a-vis the government and the vote of confidence.

On the other hand, Amman Deputy Laith Shbeilat withheld his vote of confidence, as he said he would in an eloquent one-and-a-half hour speech which he ended by calling for a new government to be formed.

Preparations continue for ACC summit in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Preparations are going ahead here and in Baghdad for next month's Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit meeting, which will be attended by His Majesty King Hussein and the presidents of North Yemen, Iraq and Egypt, according to ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammur.

As part of these preparations, the ACC is organising a ministerial meeting in Baghdad Jan. 16 to review an agenda for the summit, which is due to be held in Amman, Nammur said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Subjects which would be reviewed at the Baghdad meeting were prepared by special technical committees and deal with cooperation among the four-member state council in science and technology, planning, industrial and tourism cooperation, oil and gas, local government and

municipal affairs, meteorology, air transport and civil aviation, land transportation of passengers and goods, and religious affairs.

Like all ACC meetings, the Amman summit aims to achieve integration among Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq in implementation of a programme agreed on by the heads of state of the ACC countries to be carried out in the coming years, said Nammur.

The Amman-based ACC is maintaining a policy of cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the Arab Maghreb Union, he said.

The ACC has concluded a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and is preparing the ground for similar protocols with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United

Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), according to Nammur.

He said that through these contacts in addition to seminar and conferences, "it is hoped the ACC member states will promote their cooperation with the rest of the world, especially in economic and social fields."

Nammur stressed the importance of maintaining strong relations with the Arab Maghreb Union and the GCC, especially in view of the on-going economic and social developments in Eastern Europe and the planned unity among Western European nations scheduled for 1992.

He said cooperation between the ACC, the GCC and the Arab Maghreb Union is a must, lest the changes in Eastern European countries result in adverse effects on the Arab World. "Indeed, the Arab World should be in a strong negotiating position with other



Hilmi Nammur

international groupings especially in the face of challenges posed to the Arabs by the nations of the northern hemisphere," Nammur said.

To deal with future eventualities, Nammur said representatives of the three groupings would hold periodic meetings to chart coordination and cooperation in different fields, according to the ACC secretary-general.

Seminar discusses nursing profession

RAMTHA (J.T.) — Nursing education in Jordan and modern trends in the profession were discussed at a seminar organised by the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in cooperation with the Texas Nursing College in the American state of Texas.

The seminar, organised as part of the third scientific symposium at JUST, was attended by 60 participants from JUST's nursing faculty as well as nursing colleges in Jordan, the National Medical Institution (NMI), and the University of Jordan.

According to organisers, participants attended lectures and

took part in discussions on planning specific strategies in educating and training nursing students.

Participants saw documentary films and slide shows depicting various nursing services.

The third symposium was opened at JUST Sunday by Minister of Health Mohammad Addounb Al Zaben who underlined the importance of continued discussions on nursing services so as to boost the profession in the country.

The minister discussed developments in health services in the Kingdom over the past ten

years and said the Ministry of Health had endorsed the 1978 Basel resolutions on health services and opened primary health care centres in all parts of the country. The ministry was also responding to a call by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to provide health care to all citizens by the year 2,000, Addounb Al Zaben said.

The great expansion in health fields has necessitated the recruitment and training of more well-trained and qualified nurses, he added.

Former Minister of Health

Zuhair Malhas said last summer that Jordan has a total of 2,210 female nurses of whom 574 are non-Jordanian. The Kingdom would need 4,000 nurses by the year 2,000.

JUST is organising the first Middle East conference on "the image of nursing" which will be held in May this year in order to focus attention on the need for nurses in the Arab World.

Although the focus of the conference will be on the Middle East, papers about the image of nursing from other regions and countries will be reviewed, according to JUST officials.

Adnan Badran honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Adnan Badran, the former minister of education and former president of Yarmouk University, was Tuesday honoured by Ministry of Education staff at a ceremony held in Amman for his efforts in the field of education in general and for his new appointment as assistant to the director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris.

The ministry's secretary general, Dr. Munther Al Masri, stood in for Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan at the ceremony attended by senior officials, professors of Jordanian universities and diplomatic and United Nations personnel in Jordan.

Masri paid tribute to Badran for his efforts and congratulated him on his UNESCO appointment.

Badran promised to serve as ambassador for Jordan and the Arab World at UNESCO.

The former minister was presented with a Ministry of Education shield in recognition of his services.



Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Al Masri (left) Tuesday presents the shield of the ministry to former Education Minister Adnan Badran (Petra photo)

University to set up AAU centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Association of Arab Universities (AAU) and the University of Jordan Tuesday signed a cooperation agreement under which the AAU secretariat and the university will establish an information unit at the AAU in Amman, aimed at providing a data base to provide planners with information and statistics on the status of higher education in the Arab World.

The agreement was signed by AAU Secretary General Mohammad Faraj Dugheim and University of Jordan Vice-President for Planning and Community Development Muhammad Adnan Al Bakhit.

Under the agreement, the university will set up a technical team to undertake a study on the data base. The university,

through its computer department, will also provide access to the AAU secretariat to any information from the database through providing a link between the computer terminal and the AAU secretariat. This project was approved by the council of the AAU in its 22nd session held at Nawakshot, Mauritania, in 1989.

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3-day workshop opens on 'Education Through Play'

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Education Through Play" is the title of a three-day workshop, which opened here Tuesday under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath with the participation of 50 women employed in teaching children at the kindergarten level.

The workshop, which is being organised by the Princess Sarvath Community College in conjunction with the New Brunswick College in Canada, will orient participants on new philosophy and trends in education through playing, theoretically and practically, as well as new methods in handling children, educating children and subjects pertaining to sports, science and music for children.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Saeed Al Tal, who is member of the Upper House of Parliament, deputised for Princess Sarvath in opening

the workshop, which, according to the organisers, is in implementation of an agreement reached between the Princess Sarvath College and the New Brunswick College.

Canada's ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell addressed the opening session. He paid tribute to the Canadian Agency for International Development, which has contributed to the organisation of the seminar within its policy of providing assistance and services to Third World countries. This workshop, he said, "is bound to provide a training to the 50 participants on proper means of bringing up children and providing them with essential skills that suit their wishes and desires."

The ambassador said he was impressed with Jordan's national development endeavours, especially in the fields of health and education.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

HASSAN IN EUROPE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday left for Europe on a several-day private visit. (Petra)

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Doughti Tuesday decided to hold municipal elections in Mafrag, Rakin, Jdaideh, Disi and Tawaisah during the period from March 24 to May 5, 1990. (Petra)

TAMIMI HEADS OIC AFFILIATE: The former vice-president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) for industrial affairs and environment advisor for the Higher Council of Science and Technology, Arshaf Tamimi, Tuesday left for Jeddah to take up his new post as director general of the Islamic Science, Technology and Development Corporation, an affiliate of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. (Petra)

ACC SPORTS COOPERATION: Officials of Egyptian, North Yemeni and Iraqi universities have arrived in Amman to start work on setting up a sports federation for universities in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). A spokesman for the group said that an announcement of the new federation and its programmes would be made Wednesday.

EQUESTRIAN EVENT: An annual horse-jumping championship will be held at the Arab Horse Club Thursday and Friday. Syrian and Jordanian national teams are taking part in the championship, which will be followed by an equestrian performance by the Public Security Department. (Petra)

CZECH FILM WEEK: A Czechoslovak film week started at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Tuesday. Five films, including two for children, will be screened during the week, an event which is co-sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and the Czechoslovakian embassy in Amman.

NEW BUILDING IN MAZAR: Mazar Municipality will build a three-storey building to accommodate the various government departments in the district. The 1,480-squaremetre building will cost JD 168,000, according to Mazar Mayor Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh. (Petra)

GUVS spent JD 1.5m on various projects in 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) spent JD 1.5 million on charitable and philanthropic projects through the help of 450 charitable societies in the Kingdom during 1989, according to GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib.

In addition, GUVS is seeking to set up the Amal cancer centre at the University of Jordan and Al Amal Centre for the Severely Handicapped in Yajouz among other important projects to be executed in the new year, Khatib said in a statement outlining the union's programmes and operations at a meeting attended by Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh and GUVS board members.

Apart from the Al Amal centre at Yajouz, which will be inaugurated in next month, GUVS is involved in the setting up at least 10 rehabilitation centres in various parts of the Kingdom at a cost of JD 500,000, Khatib said.

He said that GUVS was providing scholarships to 750 needy students at Jordanian universities.

The minister praised the work of GUVS and pledged to provide



Abdullah Khatib

all possible assistance to all charitable societies.

He said that GUVS' work was bound to help the Ministry of Social Development and the government at large to eliminate pockets of poverty and reduce unemployment in Jordan.

Pilgrims to get refund donation to building

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is refunding an amount of JD 10 to each Jordanian who performed the pilgrimage to Mecca in the past season, according to a decision by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faghr.

The minister said the pilgrims had paid JD 10 extra over charges for their transportation and accommodation as a contribution towards building up a pilgrim's cultural and educational centre in Amman, which will now be totally financed by the treasury.

Faghr announced his decision at a meeting with representatives of companies which transported the pilgrims to and from Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was called to discuss the prospect of establishing a national company to transport pilgrims. Businessmen who want to join the effort in establishing

the projected company should charge reasonable rates and should not aim at making excessive profits in view of the current economic situation in the Kingdom, Faghr said at the meeting.

This policy should be adopted, he said, to enable all sectors to perform the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The Ministry of Awqaf is trying to involve local companies in the new company, giving shares to each one of them in the new entity, Faghr said. But, he added, the ministry will retain the right of registering the would be pilgrims.

According to a statement after the meeting, agreement was reached on electing a board of directors which will be authorised to take steps towards the establishment of the new company. Last year nearly 15,000 Jordanians performed the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasil Gallery, Plaza Hotel.

FILM

★ A Czechoslovak film entitled "Good Pigeons Fly Home" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

Lack of rains and fodder threaten Karak livestock

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governor Ismail Al Zaben said in a statement to the local press and the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Tuesday that farmers in the governorate were facing a difficult time in view of the lack of rain this season and insufficient animal feed they receive for their animals.

Most of the families in the Karak region depend on livestock as a source of living, but the governorate lacks sufficient pasture lands and the situation is being made worse in view of lack of rain, Zaben said. He deman-

ded that the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) distribute fodder and animal feed for the livestock in his region on a regular and organised basis to meet the shortage.

Zaben expressed fear that the livestock wealth in Karak, which constitutes 22 per cent of the total wealth of Jordan, is being endangered as a result of a lack of sufficient animal feed. He also complained that a number of areas in the southern Jordan Valley region still receive their drinking water from running streams

Jordan Times

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A confidence vote well deserved

THE fact that Prime Minister Mudar Badran has won the vote of confidence in the Parliament Monday after a thorough debate and painstaking cross examination, makes it all the more rewarding and is cherished. The heated exchange of views between the "givers" and "seeker" of the vote of confidence has obviously added credence to the phenomenon of the vote of confidence in Jordan and bolstered the infant democracy in the Kingdom. It goes without saying that the days of achieving a vote of confidence by easy sailing which was characterised more by patronising niceties and superficial analysis are gone. Judging by the extensiveness of the parliamentary debate Sunday and the depth of the questions and answers, the country can now be proud of the distance it has covered thus far to fortify its democracy.

What helped Prime Minister Badran gain the coveted vote of confidence is his credentials as a man who means what he says and says what he means. The great deeds that his government has already performed in the service of democracy in the country — whether in the form of putting the security apparatus of the country in the service of citizens rather than having the citizens serve the security, or restoring the right of travel and travel documents to the rule of law rather than having them subjected to the whims and arbitrary judgments of officialdom or in manifesting a determined effort to uproot corruption and abuse of authority and holding accountable all those who have ravaged the Jordanian economy — have all placed the prime minister in a place of unquestionable trust and confidence.

Yet, what really changed the odds in favour of the prime minister and won him the vote of confidence was his final rebuttal statement. To begin with, his words were from the heart and reflected deep sincerity and high integrity. But that was not all. His replies were all corroborated with facts and figures that left his opponents stunned to say the least.

The parliamentary debates that took place have also crystallised the formation of embryonic political parties. The apparent consolidation of the Islamists, moderates and leftists as three separate political "parties" is an added sign that there is no practical way to run a viable parliamentary life without the aid and comfort of political groupings. And the fact that each and every one of the three emerging political groupings within the Parliament have basically voted in bloc has confirmed the existence of definite and distinguishable political trends and currents in the country.

But now is the time to congratulate Prime Minister Badran and his team for a hard won victory. Surely, his current premiership will go down in the history of Jordan as the principal instrument that consolidated democracy in the country and put it in a safe and favourable environment.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL Jordanian Arabic dailies Tuesday commented on the outcome of a Parliament session which lasted three days and which resulted in a vote of confidence for the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Al Ra'i daily described the heated debate over the past three days as manifesting the true face of democracy in the country and paving the way for an era of true cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in Jordan. By giving the government a vote of confidence, the deputies have displayed their determination to see Badran implement his ambitious plan of ensuring public freedom and enhancing the march of democracy in the country, the paper said. The long and complicated debate and the charges and counter charges levelled by the deputies and the government against each other can only reflect the desire of both parties to safeguard the national interest, which all the Jordanian citizens would like to see happen, the paper added. It said that with the vote of confidence, democracy has won victory in Jordan and in the Arab World. The paper expressed appreciation to those voting in confidence of the government and congratulated Badran urging him and his colleagues to translate their programmes into practice and maintain the confidence of the deputies and the Jordanian public.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday said he believes that the coming stage carry with it the problem of making available sufficient amount of foreign exchange to finance basic commodities for the consumption or investment. Faded Al Fanek says Jordan is in need of foreign exchange in order to replenish the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) reserves of foreign currency, and also to pay for basic services, travel, education of students abroad and other essential matters. The amounts of foreign currency expected to come to Jordan are limited, and so the CBJ is, bound to follow a stringent policy and save as much as possible, the writer adds. He says the government, for its part, is bound to increase exports of national products, boost tourism and try to encourage expatriates to transfer as much as possible of hard currency earned abroad. Fanek says while trying to meet the essential requirements and at the same time save foreign exchange, the government should restrict spending of foreign currency to imports of foodstuffs, spare parts and material used in industry and agriculture.

Al Dustour daily commented on the outcome of a three-day debate by the Lower House of Parliament, preceding the vote of confidence in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The paper said that the debate which was sometimes heated and involved charges levelled against the prime minister designate, constitutes a healthy sign for democratic rule in Jordan held in an atmosphere of public freedom. The paper congratulated the government on winning a vote of confidence and called on Badran to translate the government's programme into practice and to take the initiative in the coming stage which everybody believes should be marked with constructive cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in Jordan.

A true people's revolution

By Sari Nusseibeh

ALREADY, the intifada has ceased to be a Palestinian event; it is now a landmark in the universal annals of national liberation movements. Indeed, the intifada is not just a Palestinian story. It is a human story. It is a lesson in the strength of the human will, the strength of the national will, and the strength and value of the call for freedom. It is a commonly held view now that Dec. 9, 1987, witnessed what can be characterised as a great and spontaneous popular explosion, manifesting itself in the furious out-pouring of the unarmed masses into the streets, in brazen defiance of death itself.

The distinctive mark of the eruption, indeed of the intifada as a whole, was its populist nature. I remember thinking to myself, as I walked in the early days in the barricaded streets even of East Jerusalem and saw the familiar faces of the local carpenter or shopkeeper rising behind the flames of burning tyres, that I was witnessing finally, and at long last, a true people's revolution. It was a stunning sensation. I understood then the full significance of the phrase "a people's revolution": that this is the people's creation, that it is the people creating their actions, being their own leaders.

Birth of the Unified Command

For two weeks the fire raged in almost unquenchable proportions. Even the local grassroots committees, activists and leaders were caught off-guard. The brutality of the Israeli reaction prompted an emergency meeting with the consuls-general, where an appeal was made for putting the entire area under U.N. supervision in order to protect the unarmed civilian population. The first underground leaflet of the intifada made a shy appearance. The Israeli occupation machinery was quickly plunging through the field of political activists, throwing them into goals as

quickly as it could handle them. Then Communique No. 2 of the intifada appeared. Rumours have it that it was at this stage, through consultations with, and the aid and blessing of, Abu Jihad, that the Unified Command was conceived and created, in which Fateh, the Democratic Front, the Popular Front and the Communist Party joined forces to direct the course of the intifada. Communique No. 3 enshrining the birth of the Unified Command, appeared. The uprising leaflets suddenly took on a special format, which continues to exist till this day.

Behind the serialised flow of these communiqués, an entire conceptual revolution was taking place, as committed thinkers, intellectuals and activists sought a way of harnessing the intifada to maximise its effects. With clandestine working papers and documents, a new genre of uprising literature was born. Inter-Palestinian dialogue began taking shape, very often between faceless interlocutors across the factional fence. Webs were stretched out into the community, drawing into discussion voices from various sectors and backgrounds. A document which was adopted by Abu Jihad and recycled as a general PLO directive outlining the strategy to be followed in the territories was the skeleton of a plan for civil disobedience leading to the complete severance of ties with the military administration.

Different papers followed, concentrating on different angles and specific needs: the formation of unified committees, alternative economic strike forces, financial arrangements, the media, everything necessary for a declaration of independence. As papers were secretly passed around, commented on, discussed, the serialised calls of the Unified Command painstakingly translated ideology into programmes of tangible resistance. Out in the street, the outpourings of the masses were translated into acts of civil disobedience. The pinnacle

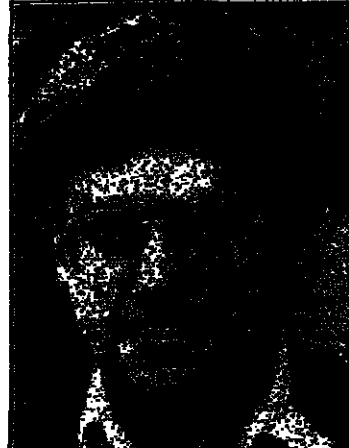
of this stage was reached when as many as 600 Palestinian police officers resigned from their jobs. Already the stage was set for thinking about a declaration of independence, and lively discussions were held on whether such a declaration should follow upon or be complementary to the call for total civil disobedience.

The independence declaration

By now, tens of thousands of activists, school teachers, unionists, student leaders, professionals and others, were already in jail. But even inside the prisons, the process of organisation and deliberation continued. Six months had passed since the outbreak of the intifada, and signs of fatigue were beginning to show themselves. The organisation and level of activity of popular committees and strike forces had been strengthened, but in contrast the momentum of past participation seemed to slacken. The call for a declaration of independence, which before seemed to be of primarily academic interest, and to be addressed only when the phase of total civil disobedience was reached, now came to be looked upon as a necessity for regenerating mass momentum.

"The Hussein Document" — as the independence document was dubbed — was uncovered by security agents who had gone to arrest Faisal Hussein at his home. The timing coincided with Jordan's decision to declare administrative and legal disengagement from the West Bank. The stage was thus set for a serious effort to build on the dual disengagement, from Israel and from Jordan, in the process of turning popular and local committees into the integral and cohesive parts of a state structure.

On Nov. 15, 1988, the Palestine National Council (PNC) issued the long-awaited declaration of independence. The declaration of independence gave an important boost to the intifada. It gave hope, it set a tangible pur-



Sari Nusseibeh

pose, and it provided a clear vision of what the primary task of the revolution should be, namely, the further positive crystallisation of a state structure.

But as the intifada entered its second year, the momentum once again seemed to slacken. On the ground Israel was beginning to talk about the outrageous violence perpetrated by the army. But after the arrest of many members of the Unified Command, and a whole year of assessing the situation, Israel's intelligence enabled it to improve its methods of confrontation. For Israel's "peace" counter-offensive succeeded in stealing much of the limelight from the Palestinians. Having failed to storm the intifada spirit of the Palestinian village in direct army offensives, the new tactic now seemed to be the employment of collaborators within the village. Thus collaborators began imposing their presence and their strength in their local communities by the use of arms supplied by the security forces, thereby giving rise to counter-violence. Once begun, however, the cycle began to create its own momentum. In a climate where rumour often passes as fact, mistakes were bound to occur.

Grounds for worries

While one cannot by any means say that the revolution had begun eating itself, there were nonetheless several areas which gave occasion for worry. One such area was the spirited abundance with which new formations were being created. The so-called "popular army" was one such formation. With so many tens of thousands of activists already imprisoned, it was only inevitable that a worse kind of collaborator, the hidden agent, would find his way into some of the regional leaderships of such hastily drawn-up formations. Once there, the job of these agents was to spark conflicts with members of other formations, or with members of the community, or to add fuel to such conflicts if they already existed. The frictions created by inter-factional or inter-factional fighting, or by cases of mistaken identification of collaborators, have diverted energy away from the real task of building Palestinian independence.

On the plane of institutions and public figures, "status rush" seemed to begin, as parties that had been totally paralysed the year before began seeking positions or setting up institutional frameworks which they assumed would provide them with appropriate places in the structure of an impending Palestinian state. Israel, for its part gained with increased intelligence the ability to seek out and destroy activists and leaders. Reports began coming in at a growing rate of cold-blooded, on-the-spot execu-

tions by Israelis in civilian dress. In a situation of relative retreat, of redeployment, Israel sought to provoke battles of its own choosing. The magnetic cards battle in Gaza was an example. An 'Analogous battle over the issue of taxes was fought in Beit Sahur. But wherever one looked, one observed the unfolding of a pattern of events which more reflected an Israeli initiated strategy rather than a Palestinian offensive.

If the main theme of the second year of the intifada has been to naturalise it as an irremovable mode of existence pending liberation, yet a significant feature in it has also been the absence of new ideological blood, of initiative, of a true assessment of priorities. Above all, while the national leadership has recognised the wave-like pattern of the intifada, as one which reflects consecutive states of collective psychological moods, it has not always succeeded in translating this into programmes of resistance that are commensurate with those moods. A lack of synchronisation between prevalent mood and resistance action calls can easily introduce a state of alienation from the leadership. Uncontrolled behaviour on the part of youths can also alienate sectors of the community. The diffusion of authority and the proliferation of independent sub-groups is also a negative factor.

I believe that the national leadership is quite well aware of the problems it faces. Indeed, action has already been initiated to uproot some of the negative phenomena that had begun to appear. Chairman Arafat made direct radio appeals for the cessation of collaborator executions; the Unified Command has issued calls to contain such executions. It also issued a directive to disband all sub-groups and formations. In other words, the problems which I outlined have in fact begun to be dealt with and to be marginalised. Even so, it is clear that these are defensive actions rather than steps which can be regarded as a further development in an unfolding Palestinian strategy.

If one wishes to look ahead, there are several principles and hard facts that one must use as a basis for one's forecast. First, the collective psyche of the people as a whole is as revolutionary as it was right at the beginning. Second, the general impression is that, in any case, the hardships that will be inflicted by Israel on the population if the intifada were to stop are far greater than those they now suffer. Third, people's continued commitment to the intifada is no longer associated with the belief that independence is just around the corner. Fourth, the psychological and economic hardships suffered by the population are reflected in the levels of resistance and readiness to sacrifice. Fifth, the system of the Unified Command has proven itself to be a permanent feature of the intifada. Sixth, the phenomenon of Islamic fundamentalism is one that will continue to occupy a fundamental place on the political map. Its importance is likely to grow as hopes for a reasonably imminent settlement begin to fade. Given these principles, it is safe to assume that the intifada can last for a very prolonged period, consolidating the resistance spirit of the Palestinian people.

Time for a provisional government
I believe that the establishment

of a provisional government would be of great help in filling a vacuum created by the declaration of independence. As we have a state, so we need a government. The PLO executive committee can perform many important functions of government, but it can by no means be effective on the ground in directing health, social welfare, justice, education, and so on. The mushrooming popular committees and voluntary councils can only stand together as part of a coherent whole if they are declared to be part of an organisational hierarchy. The PLO executive committee can look upon itself as a ministerial cabinet at the top of the hierarchy.

But such a cabinet can have proper institutional roots in the Palestinian state only through the organised channels of a governmental system, which in my opinion should have been established soon after the declaration of independence. The declaration of a provisional government would constitute an additional step in the process begun by the intifada. It would usher in cohesion at a time when it is most needed. It would provide people with a reference point. It would provide substance to the declaration of independence. It would provide a higher form of institutional integration between the PLO outside and the people under occupation. Most important, it would constitute the first organic form of a cohesive national authority. It would also concentrate people's energies on proceeding with the constructive work of state creation, and would provide the intifada once more with an overall strategy. The communiqués of the Unified Command would once more come to be regarded as containing substantive policy rather than just an agenda of specific resistance actions.

A declaration of a Palestinian government, and the concentration of Palestinian intifada efforts on its implementation, would simply be the natural and logical extension of intifada strategy. This would provide the intifada with the new blood it now needs to recapture the initiative. It will simply be a challenge, a new battle, and Israel's reaction cannot but fail in containing it and its fallout. Either Israel will simply find itself imprisoning people whose only crime is that they are doctors and teachers, which will further discredit it internationally and at home. Or it will learn to reach a tacit *modus vivendi* with it, which would further crystallise and legitimise the emerging state and its structure.

I have steered clear of making any statement about the ongoing political developments because I believe, as do the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people under occupation, that the PLO is the sole party entrusted with the role of speaking on behalf of the Palestinian people, and of making decisions concerning the various plans and proposals that are aired in the political arena. We, under occupation, neither have the facts nor the means to assess in a comprehensive manner the true value or significance of a statement or move made in the arena of high politics. But we have faith in our leadership, and faith that nothing short of freedom and independence can end the intifada, or can buy the silence of the Palestinian people.

Taken from an address to the Arab American University Graduates Convention, Washington D.C.

Romania's rulers bear heavy burden after Ceausescu years

By Richard Balmforth
Renter

BUCHAREST — Romania has taken its first faltering steps towards democracy but its new rulers face a colossal task rebuilding a society traumatised by dead dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's harsh rule.

The provisional leaders have announced free elections for next year, brought culture back to public life and put food into the shops, at least temporarily.

They have also scrapped hated laws, among them Ceausescu's scheme to raze villages and resettle people in new urban centres and his ban on abortion.

With the shadow of tyranny lifted after 24 dark years, they are set to lead Romania's 23 million desperately deprived people into their happiest New Year for years.

But Romania's lurch towards democracy after an extraordinary spasm of violence is not likely to be easy.

There is no prospect of rapid cures for the deep psychological wounds in a society ruled by terror for nearly a quarter of a century.

A lack of any flourishing democratic tradition even before World War II makes a smooth transition to a multi-party system

highly problematic.

"There are Christmas carols on television now. There are cartoons for the children to watch. There is pop music for the teenagers and there is food to eat," said one diplomat.

"But sooner or later some hard decisions about where they go from here have to be made," he said.

The task of being a member of the National Salvation Front (NSF), the umbrella organisation that is effectively running the country, is not only politically tough, it is also physically dangerous.

NSF Vice-President Cazimir Ionescu said Friday that the front's 145 members were being driven around in armoured personnel carriers to avoid assassination attempts by Ceausescu's secret police agents.

Diplomats say that with scores of well-armed and well-trained gunmen still loose there is likely to be a major security problem for a long time.

Against that background the promise by the NSF, a loose alliance of politicians, dissidents and artists, to hold free elections next April appears optimistic.

There is also a real fear of a popular backlash against thousands of officials who advanced their careers during

Ceausescu's rule at the expense of others.

The NSF, pledging reconciliation, Thursday urged people not to launch witch-hunts or settle personal vendettas against Communists and other members of Ceausescu's regime.

"There are many scores to be settled and the authorities are clearly worried about this," a Western diplomat said.

It is not clear just where the Communist Party, which had 3.8 million members, will fit into a multi-party system.

A supine body that paid lip-service to Ceausescu rather than to the party lost its guaranteed right to power in the instant in the chaotic eight-day rebellion that overthrew the dictator.

Nothing has been heard publicly of it since. "They (party officials) are all scared stiff," said teacher Maria Ciobana.

The party newspaper Scinteia (Spark) has transformed itself into Adevartul (Truth) and now describes itself as a political and social daily.

The 465-member party Central Committee appears to have gone into voluntary liquidation. Many members of the politburo have been arrested, although at least one — Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu — is still on the run.

With the country lacking an

alternative source of skilled administrators, the core of the people running the NSF government consists, ironically, of Communist Party members.

But only those who dared criticise Ceausescu when it was unwise to do so have been acceptable.

In a country where public personalities untainted by association with Ceausescu were a rarity, NSF President Ion Iliescu, 59, has emerged as the most widely respected figure.

Iliescu established his credentials by openly opposing Ceausescu's policies, leading to his detention in 1984 to be director of a technical publishing house.

Another prominent NSF figure is Dumitru Mazilu, 56, a one-time delegate to the United Nations who was put under house arrest and harassed by secret police after he denounced Ceausescu's human rights abuses.

People like Iliescu and Mazilu face the choice of building a new political career with a new creed or keeping allegiance to the Communist ideal damned in Romania by its identification with Ceausescu.

Three potential political movements have emerged — the National Christian Peasant Party, the Democratic People's Party and an environmental group.



"We have people turning up all the time at our gates to ask how to form a party," said a diplomat who did not wish his embassy to be identified.

Tensions are appearing, with some intellectuals and students wanting a more profound change from the old era.

Students in particular, who have become a force to be reckoned with after leading the Bucharest protests against Ceausescu, are questioning the right of the NSF to rule in their name.

Privately some Romanians are questioning the right of the radio broadcasts with announcements of its decrees, rather allow time for political parties to set out their views.

Diplomats said the main was for the government to up a new constitution to establish a legal basis for multi-party systems.

"But you must remember we are starting from zero in all," said Ion Dascalescu, an engineer. "We are not used to this at all."

A son never forgotten

BETWEEN 1952 and 1960, six Jewish children disappeared in the state of Israel. There might have been more victims but we know for sure about these six children since they appear on different photos found in 1970 in different establishments belonging to the French Mission of St. Vincent-de-Paul, or the Sisters of Charity. The Mission of St. Vincent-de-Paul is located in the west part of Jerusalem, and the Sisters of Charity and the Lazaris are located in Bethania, Arab Jerusalem.

I have today all the information concerning one of the six abducted children. His name was Moshe Shimon. He was kidnapped in 1952, at the age of three. He was kept like a prisoner, until 1957 in the French Catholic Mission of St. Vincent-de-Paul in its nursery where he lived under the name of Michel. This was the name which the nuns chose for him. He was seen in 1957 in that nursery by a Jewish woman, Mrs. Frenkel. Little Moshe, who in 1957 was eight years old, still refused to be called Michel and he begged Mrs. Frenkel to take him out of that mission.

"I am Moshe, I want my mommy," he went on repeating in tears. Mrs. Frenkel believed the story which a nun told her that the boy did not know that his mother had passed away. And the nun added: "There are families in France who have no children."

I have from Mrs. Frenkel an affidavit certified by a notary in Jerusalem in 1971). Moshe Shimon, called Michel, was transferred to Arab Jerusalem, shortly after Mrs. Frenkel discussed the issue with the nuns of St. Vincent-de-Paul. He appears on a photo of a school-class in Bethania.

How long he stayed there? Was he finally adopted in a country of the Middle East or in France? I do not know. But one thing I know today: Adoptive parents from Jordan or elsewhere in the world had to go to Lebanon, where all the formalities for an adoption had to be performed.

Some people may ask: Why nuns kidnapped children? Because the soul of a non-Christian, in general, and the soul of a Jew, especially, are thrown in the eternal fire for their disbelief. This was a belief which was preached in the Middle Ages, and especially at the time of the inquisition. Therefore, the zeal of missionaries to convert Jews to save Jewish souls from eternal torment: This is not the authentic Christian belief, this is why the good John XXIII who became pope in the sixties made a lot of changes in the teachings of the Roman Church. Unfortunately, there are still narrow-minded people



Eighteen years ago and today Moshe-Michel's sister who is said to be a spitting image of him. Experts say that the picture left would indicate that he would look like today.

ple in the world who still believe in such stories.

It was not difficult for Mother Bernes, the head of the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul, who kidnapped the children, to obtain, when she needed them, the necessary identity documents for the adoptions in Beirut where she had colleagues and friends in the community of the Genezels, who had already a good relationship with the Israelis. I met her by chance in 1971 when I was trying to track Moshe Shimon.

Mother Bernes' headquarters were, then, at the "Lazaris brothers" of Beirut. What was her mission in Beirut, at that time? I did not know in 1971 what I know now: She was an important agent (according to my documents, she was a directing agent) of the Israeli secret services, the Shin Beth and the Mossad. Her "mission" was, then, together with the members of the Lazaris in Damascus and the Lebanese Christian authorities of that time, to help Syrian Jews who illegally crossed the border between Syria and Lebanon and to spirit them out of the country.

Israeli police never acted against Mother Bernes concerning the kidnappings because of "her work for the Israeli govern-

ment in their fight against the Arabs," according to documents obtained by me.

Mother Bernes also got in 1972 the Zionist reward "Distinguished Jerusalemite" for her work as an agent of the Israeli secret services. All these facts are proved by official documents which I managed to secure after many years of efforts.

With tears in my eyes, I ask each Muslim and Christian mother to try to imagine how she would feel, or had felt, if one of her children had been torn away from her. If, with God's help, I will find Moshe (Michel) Shimon, I do not think that, if he has adoptive parents, he will break with them. But, at last, to see again their lost son about whom, after 37 years they are still crying, will alleviate the grief of his natural parents. The father of Moshe Shimon is an anti-Zionist Jew and lives today in the U.S. with his family.

Apart from this, to know about his past is a right due to a man who was kidnapped when he was an infant, who longed so long for his family and cried so bitterly in his prison. It is also an act of justice.

This tragedy and that of five other families is a part of the

general tragedy of the Middle East where the Zionist leaders have been able for more than four decades to fool the world and buy Jews, Muslims and Christians for what they call their "security" and other political interests.

When I asked the Israeli police to let me see the file concerning the abduction of Moshe Shimon, silence was the only answer I ever received. I was no more successful on the other side. I have for years been trying to settle this ignoble issue of the kidnappings peacefully, with the help of the church. I wrote to John Paul II who is always preaching "justice, the respect for man's right to dignity, to his inalienable right of freedom of conscience, freedom to express his faith." Was my letter ever delivered to the Pope? This is a question I asked myself for years, since I had put much hope in his assistance. A story which I had read about him had also reinforced my trust in him: After the World War II, in 1946, when he was in Cracow as a newly ordained parish priest, Karol Wojtila, now John Paul II refused to baptize a Polish Jewish child whose parents had been killed during the war.

"I wrote letters to other dignitaries in the Vatican and in France. I only encountered an iron wall. The complexity of silence there, the complexity of silence on the Israeli side! Like in the past I rely today upon God's help but also now upon the help of the good people in the world.

Whoever will help me on the track to find this man "Moshe," also called "Michel" in the mission, will receive from me a reward. This is the word of a Jewish woman, a friend of the Arabs, someone who believes in God, the Creator and loving Father of all humanity.



Little Moshe-Michel at the school in Bethania. He is the boy at left with the X mark.

Ruth Blau is the widow of Rabbi Amram Blau, founder of the religious anti-Zionist Neture-Karta. She is the author of a book entitled "Guardians of the City" in Heb-

rew and French and "Jews — not Zionist in Arabic. Mrs. Blau can be contacted through the Jordan Times.

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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE



A close-up of the photo above.



A daily scene on the trading floor of the Amman Financial Market.

Amman Financial Market marks 1989 as 'the year of records'

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Trading of shares and stocks at the secondary market of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during 1989 eclipsed the record figures of 1983 and 1987 as the volume and number of securities rocketed to JD 552,650,272 and 257,867,657 shares and bonds respectively by the end of last year, according to data revealed by AFM Acting General Manager Ibrahim Bilbeisi at a press conference Monday.

Bilbeisi said the secondary market, which includes both the regular and parallel share markets as well as the stock market and the hereditary transactions among others which are excluded from floor trading, posted an increase of 222.3 per cent over the 1988 figure of JD 171,476,465 and an increase of 110.4 per cent over the total of 122,558,410 shares during 1988.

In some detail, the regular and parallel share markets registered a combined volume of JD 367,618,135 in 1989, a 177.2 per cent increase over last year's total of JD 132,625,222 and a 148.1 per cent over the highest previous

record of JD 148,178,276 achieved in 1987.

The daily average volume of trading during 1989 was JD 1,488,333, up 276.0 per cent over the 1988 figure of JD 539,000 and up 142.0 per cent over the highest previous daily average of JD 615,000 registered in 1987.

Bilbeisi said that a total of 195,618,274 shares changed hands last year compared to the 1988 record number of 113,792,702, thus representing a rise of 71.9 per cent. The figures translate into a daily average of 791,977 shares and 462,572 shares for 1989 and 1988 respectively. A total of 210,485 contracts

were concluded in 1989 compared with the 1988 record number of 120,659 contracts, representing a 74.6 per cent increase. In terms of daily average, 832 contracts were signed last year in contrast with 490 signed in 1988.

Bilbeisi referred to Aug. 2, 1989 as being the record day in the history of the AFM since it was established in 1978. He said that Wednesday, Aug. 2, a volume of JD 4,571,461 was posted whereas the highest number of shares traded was recorded on another Wednesday, that of Feb. 1, 1989.

The beginning of February also witnessed the largest number of contracts in the AFM's history as a total of 1,968 contracts were concluded on that day.

The stock market was not an exception to the trend of ascendancy, registering a 1989 volume of JD 22,174,943 far exceeding the previous 1988 record of JD 16,656,964 representing a percentage rise of 33.1 per cent.

The number of stocks traded, according to AFM acting general manager, stood at 658,612, a rise of 23.6 per cent over the previous record of 532,987 posted in 1988. Bilbeisi reasoned this particular increase to the decision lowering the commission of brokers to one per thousand instead of three per thousand and to the exclusion of banks from floor trading in government development bonds and treasury bills.

The operations, which were handled by the legal department for being hereditary or family-linked transfer deals, surged from 8,232,721 in 1988 to 61,588,725 shares and stocks last year — an increase of 648.1 per cent. The market value of the deals amounted to JD 162,850,194 compared to the 1988 value of JD 22,194,279, a rise of 633.7 per cent.

Bilbeisi said that the general index went up by 12.9 points — from 124.4 at the end of 1988 to 137.3 at the end of 1989 — or 10.4 per cent. Noting that such an increase was not registered since four years, he detailed the four sectors by points as follows:

- 1) Industrial shares going up by 45.3 points or 41.8 per cent;
- 2) Financial shares rising by 14.0 points or 8.8 per cent;
- 3) Services shares increasing by 20.3 points or 25.3 per cent;
- 4) Insurance shares declining by 39.8 points or 23.1 per cent.

The primary market which handles new share or stock flotations for subscription was equally active last year as the overall amount reached JD 51,204,642, 52.1 per cent increase over the 1988 total of JD 33,660,000.

The 1989 total included the establishment of five new public shareholding companies for a combined capital of JD 25,359,568 whereas in 1988 only one company was set up with a capital of JD 6 million. In addition, three public shareholding companies increased their capital by JD 2,845,074 in 1989 in contrast to only one firm, which boosted its capital by one million dinars in the preceding year.

One debenture for JD 5 million was floated for subscription in comparison to two debentures for JD 9.66 million in 1988. However, government development bonds totalled JD 18 million through three issues while there were only two issues for JD 17 million in 1988.

Bilbeisi attributed the impressive 1989 performance to the turbulent foreign exchange situation which affected Jordan in the past two years which also witnessed the dinar devaluation and the inflation spiral which followed.

The AMF acting chief voiced high optimism for 1990 to be a continuation for last year's remarkable results although he was careful to note that prices of most shares may be poised for correction in both directions.

On other activities, the AMF has provided Jordanian experience and expertise to Tunisians in their endeavours to advance their stock exchange. Moreover, Jordanian expertise were also sent to Oman to train the local stock officials in the Sultanate noting that a group of Bahrainis underwent training at the AFM in Amman.

Bilbeisi also highlighted foreign interest in Jordan saying that JD 40 million of investments in shares and stocks were held by international organisations with more expected this year.

He also said that the Arab Monetary Fund has chosen the AFM to be the central liaison to monitor all economic activities in Jordan.

The AFM has already finalised studies to computerise most of its operations in the first half of this year.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Tunis exchange lowers commissions

TUNIS (R) — The Tunis Stock Exchange introduced sharply lower commissions on deals Tuesday in an attempt to stimulate business, exchange president Mustapha Nabil said. The exchange will charge 0.4 per cent on deals worth up to 50,000 dinars and 0.2 per cent over that amount, equally divided between the buyer and the seller. The old rate was 1.6 per cent. The commissions paid to the stockbrokers, also 0.8 per cent for the seller and 0.8 per cent for the buyer, have been liberalised and are expected to fall, Nabil said. To compensate for the loss of revenue, the stock exchange plans to introduce direct annual charges on the companies quoted. This will come into effect in about three months. Stimulating the stock exchange was part of the structural adjustment programme adopted by the government in 1986. But turnover at the exchange remains small and business is dominated by banks and insurance companies. Nabil said the old rates were unreasonably high while the new ones were closer to those in the world's big exchanges.

Jakarta requests Kuwaiti investment

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia has asked Kuwait to invest in an oil refinery in eastern part of the country which could produce 250,000 barrels of oil per day, Mines and Energy Minister Gijmar Kartasasmita said. "We have asked Kuwait to build the refinery... in Lombok island or in East Kalimantan," the official news agency Antara quoted Gijmar as saying after a meeting with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah. The Kuwaiti minister is on a four-day visit in Jakarta to explore areas of possible cooperation with Indonesia.

Boussena becomes OPEC chief

LONDON (R) — Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena has taken over as OPEC's acting president until the group's next meeting on May 25, OPEC head of public information James Andu said. Boussena's previous position as alternate president meant he took over automatically from the incumbent Rikwan Lukman of Nigeria. Andu told Reuters from OPEC headquarters in Vienna.

Baltic regions start own programmes

MOSCOW (AP) — The three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania started their much-debated economic independence programmes Monday, taking control of numerous factories and other elements of their economies from bureaucrats in Moscow. Estonia underscored the potential of the reform by kicking off a contest to design its new currency, the kroon. The newspaper Rabochaya Tribuna, or workers' tribune, said the kroon will be introduced next year and planners tentatively expect it to be fixed to the rouble at a one-to-one rate for inter-regional trade. But they plan for the kroon to float against the rouble for tourist purposes, the newspaper said. Details of the economic independence plans were still being hammered out at the last minute, as officials of the republics and the national government in Moscow argued over just which powers would be decentralised. The Baltics, with their more recent experience with capitalism than the rest of the Soviet Union, favour much more drastic economic reforms than Moscow, including legalisation of private property. The three republics were independent nations between the two world wars, until they were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

BA, RJ to operate joint flight service

AMMAN (J.T.) — From April 1990, British Airways (BA) and Royal Jordanian (RJ) will operate a joint air service between London and Amman using RJ aircraft, it was announced in Amman Tuesday.

British Airways currently operates three flights weekly between London Gatwick and Amman via Cairo. The last British Airways flight, operated by British Airways Tristar aircraft, will be on Thursday March 22.

From April 1 there will be five services a week, increasing to six

services a week from June 1, operating non-stop between London Heathrow and Amman. The services will use Royal Jordanian Airbus A310-300 aircraft and operate with a joint RJ/BA flight designator.

"The decision to begin joint air service arrangements has been made on commercial grounds," commented Geoff Rhodes, British Airways manager, Jordan. "By linking with Royal Jordanian and with the support of our general sales agent, British Airways will continue to maintain a presence in Jordan," he said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, January 1, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	645.0	651.0	French franc	112.1 113.2
Pound Sterling	1042.5	1052.9	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.7 452.2
Deutsche mark	383.3	387.1	Dutch guilder	339.2 342.6
Swiss franc	419.6	423.8	Swedish crown	104.4 105.4
			Italian lira (for 100)	51.1 51.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	182.3 184.1

S. Arabia moves to widen bond market

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia will introduce new measures to stimulate demand for its state bonds, issued since 1988 to help cover budget deficits, bankers in the kingdom said Tuesday.

They said the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) had approved plans for banks to act as marketmakers for the two-to-five-year development bonds.

The scheme, expected to take effect in the next few weeks, would give a badly-needed boost to the fledgling secondary bond market, aimed at tapping the wealth of private investors.

"The secondary market is virtually non-existent at the moment," said one senior banker who wished to remain anonymous.

"No one doubts the government's ability to repay or service the bonds — the only concern is that if someone purchases the paper and wants to sell ahead of its maturity there might not be enough liquidity for him to do so

at full value," he said.

SAMA launched a secondary market for the regular 1.5 billion riyal (\$400 million) offerings in 1988 by allowing its 11 commercial banks to sell the paper to Saudi firms and citizens.

Enthusiasm was dampened by competition from higher-yield interbank deposits, tight liquidity and a high minimum repurchase amount of one million riyals (\$266,000).

SAMA asked major banks to study the problem last August and their recommendations were circulated a few weeks ago, the bankers said.

The circular was sent with a cover letter inviting banks to become marketmakers by being ready to deal any issue of bonds of up to five million riyals. Price quotes would have a spread of 20 basis points and banks would report volume of trade to SAMA.

The bankers said they were optimistic the new moves would succeed because the minimum re-

purchase limit for individual investors had been cut to 50,000 riyals (\$13,300).

Six of the kingdom's top banks — National Commercial Bank, Saudi British Bank, Saudi American Bank, Riyad Bank, Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi and United Saudi Commercial Bank — would probably take part, they said.

"The hope is that when the market is more established and more liquid, people who were nervous about investing before will come in," one banker said.

In compliance with an Islamic ban on usury, there is no fixed interest rate on the bonds which are issued every other week and pay twice a year a fixed sum or "cash flow" linked to specific government development projects.

However bankers can calculate a Western-style yield which they say has remained at a margin of 20 to 50 basis points above like-dated U.S. Treasury notes.

One senior Saudi banker said he doubted the new moves would attract many individual investors, who generally take a short-term view and keep their money in high-yielding time deposits.

But he said pressure to take up the bonds would be put on the country's major corporations, most of which are at least partially government-owned.

"Corporations would prefer to invest in international bonds but semi-government clients will be pushed to take up the balance from commercial banks," he said.

"They have been taking a free ride on government subsidies and benefits so far — the government wants them to do their part by taking a product which won't hurt them," he added.

The bankers said higher oil prices and output during 1990 might help Saudi Arabia narrow a projected budget deficit of 25 billion riyals (\$6.7 billion), reducing the need to borrow from the domestic market.

Argentina limits austral to drive dollar down

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — The government, faced with economic chaos and possible social unrest, has announced measures intended to prop up the austral, bring down ruinously high interest rates and stabilise real wages.

In a 26-minute address broadcast nationwide Monday night, Economy Minister Antonio Gon-

zalez said the amount of australs in the economy would be strictly limited in order to prevent Argentines from buying U.S. dollars and driving down the value of the austral.

Investors whose certificates of deposit come due beginning Wednesday, following a bank holiday Tuesday, will be paid up to one million australs (\$500) in

cash and have to accept long-term bonds in exchange for the rest, Gonzalez said.

Also, the central bank will order only enough australs be printed to cover salaries, pensions and everyday business expenses, he said.

"The price of the dollar should go down," he said. "The reason for this affirmation is very simple: There are going to be very few australs in circulation."

Last Thursday, the final business day of 1989, the austral slid to 1,950 per one U.S. dollar in what analysts said was a lack of public confidence in the government's economic programme. Earlier in the year, the rate was 17-1. Earlier in December, it was 1,000-1.

As banks struggled to retain funds, interest rates shot up to 600 per cent a month. Stores,

anticipating inflation, marked up prices drastically or closed their doors in the face of panic buying by shoppers trying to stock up on goods they soon might not be able to afford.

"The commercial chain has been broken," Juan Carlos Lightowler Stahlberg, director of the Board of Merchant Business Activities, has said.

"We set up as businessmen in order to sell," he said. "Unfortunately... every operation in cash (now) is done at a loss" because inflation makes it impossible to estimate prices in order to be able to charge enough to be able to restock.

The government claims the two-month plunge in value of the austral, which led to the resignations of one economy minister and two central bank presidents, is "totally unjustified and the

result of collective hysteria," in the words of Gonzalez.

However, exchange and interest rates will continue to be set by market forces, he said, denying reports the government intended to formally devalue the austral for the third time under Menem, or reimpose controls.

Wages and prices also will be set by market forces and not by government guidelines "because we are convinced that controls don't work in any country in the world," Gonzalez said.

Public service rates were not hiked, though that decision, which is necessary to provide funds for the government, may come later.

The value of short-term certificates of deposits may total hundreds of millions of dollars, which Argentines usually roll over every seven days.

If large amounts were converted to dollars this week, the austral might sink as low as 6,000-1 against the dollar, Gonzalez said. "That would produce hyperinflation," he said.

Beginning Wednesday, the shortest-term certificate of deposit will be for 90 days, Gonzalez said.

The economy minister denied that the U.S. dollar would be used as a sort of alternate currency, as newspapers and analysts said for days was pending and as Argentines selling apartments, plane tickets, cars and other expensive goods have done for years.

With inflation estimated at a minimum 50 per cent for December and 5,000 per cent for 1989, Gonzalez admitted that the economy "every day is more 'dollarised'" in terms of prices.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNFYN

PUMBY

KUEBER

OTHPRY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THERE WAS A

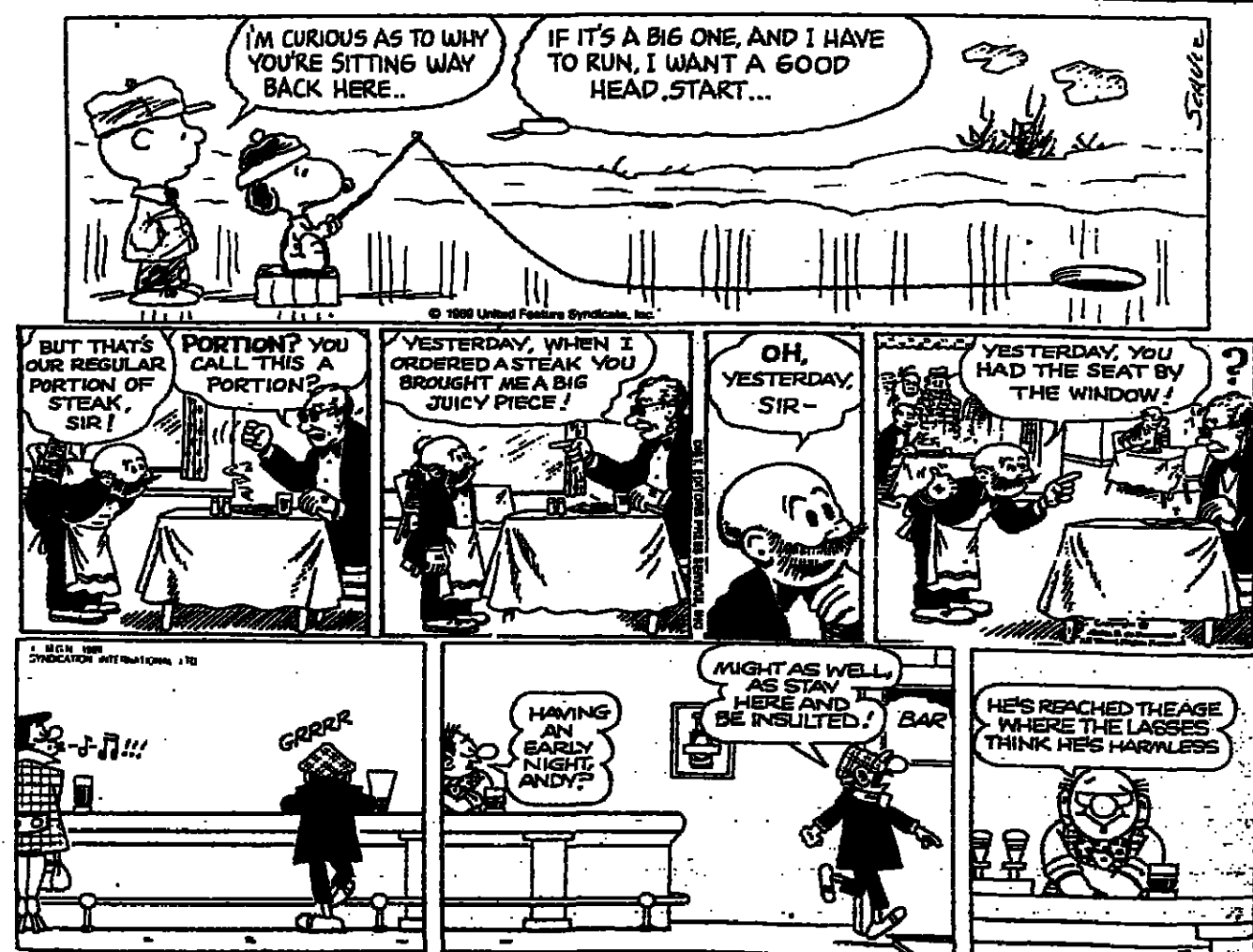
Yesterday's Jumbles: ANASH FAITH POPLIN SOCKET

Answer: Rich relatives left him a yacht, and ever since he's been talking about this — HIS "YON SHIP"

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



Queensland Open:

Sukova, Novotna into last 16

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Top-seeded Czechoslovakian duo Helena Sukova and Jana Novotna each scored second round victories Tuesday to advance to the last 16 of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open women's tennis championships.

Defending champion Sukova breezed past compatriot Petra Langrova 6-3, 6-4, while second-seeded Novotna ousted Nathalie Herremans of France 6-3, 7-5, in matches held at the Milton Centre.

Two other seeded players were eliminated in the second round of the 56-draw tournament, one of a series of lead up events for the Australian Open, which begins Jan. 25 in Melbourne.

Kimiko Date of Japan upset fourth-seeded South African baseliner, Ros Fairbank 6-4, 6-3, while Australian Michelle Jagger bonomed 11th-seeded Dutch player Manon Bollegraf 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Sixth-seeded Natalia Zvereva

of the Soviet Union and seventh-seeded Patty Fendick of the United States advanced in contrasting styles.

Zvereva defeated Dutch player Nicole Pietrangeli 6-2, 6-4, while Fendick struggled past Jana Pospisilova of Czechoslovakia 3-6, 7-5, 7-5. Pospisilova served for the match at 5-4 in the second set, but former NCAA champion Fendick kept her nerve.

Two seeds won first round matches.

Jedich Wiesner of Austria, the 10th seed, defeated Australian Nicole Pietrangeli 7-6 (7-2), 6-2, while 16th-seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States defeated Pascale Echtemendy of France, 6-4, 6-0.

Echtemendy was a late addition to the draw when Australian Laura Golarsa withdrew, pleading heat exhaustion after a warm-up in 100 degree (-100 celcius) temperatures.

The tournament continues through Sunday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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PREPARE FOR THE WORST

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 4 2
♥ A 10 5
♦ 9 6 3 2
♣ J 6 4

WEST
♠ A 10 6 5
♥ K 9 7
♦ J 10 8 5
♣ 7 2

EAST
♠ Void
♥ Q J 8 7 6 3
♦ A 10 8 5
♣ 10 9 8 5 3

SOUTH
♠ Q J 8 7 3
♥ 4
♦ A K Q
♣ A K Q

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

If you follow the rubrics in deciding how to tackle a hand, you will sometimes find yourself facing conflicting ideas. For instance, how would you tackle the trump suit here. Should you first lead toward the short trump hand, or toward the hand with two honors? At the right time, both approaches have their merits. In this case, however, forget about bromides and use common sense.

While there is something unpalat-

able about opening with a demand bid on a suit missing two of the three top honors, South has a three-loser hand and to open anything else could lead to impossible problems later. When North raised and Blackwood elicited the information that an ace was missing, declarer decided to gamble that partner held one of the high spades for the three-spade raise.

After winning the diamond in hand, declarer should have no problem about how to go about making his contract. There is no loser in the plain suits, so only a 4-0 trump break could endanger the contract. With a reasonable amount of care, declarer can nullify that distribution no matter which defender has the long trump.

Declarer should lead the queen of spades to the second trick. If the cards lie as in the diagram and West wins the ace, East will show out on the first trump. So declarer comes to hand as soon as he can and runs the nine of trumps for the marked finesse. If West shows out on the first round of trumps, declarer can get to dummy with the ace of hearts for the marked finesse against the ten. Either way, declarer can lose no more than one trump trick.

Sanchez survives 1st ordeal

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Top-seeded Emilio Sanchez recovered from an overnight flight to defeat New Zealander Steven Gray in the first round Tuesday of the \$150,000 national tennis tournament.

The Spaniard beat American John McEnroe in the final of the Hopman Cup in Perth, Australia, Monday night and then hopped onto a plane for the six-hour flight to Wellington.

He arrived Tuesday morning, had a few hours to rest and then went on court at Renouit Centre to defeat Gray 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 after a sluggish start.

Sanchez earned a round of 16 meeting with Sweden's Lars Jonsson in the first tournament on the new Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tour.

Second-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union also progressed with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 victory over Canadian Martin Wostenholme.

Also advancing were fifth-seeded Italian Paolo Canale and seventh-seeded American Paul Chamberlin. Canale ousted smooth-stroking Indian Ramesh Krishnan 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, while Chamberlin battled past West German Jens Woermann 6-3, 6-7, 6-0.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Much confusion reigns early in the day and nothing seems to go the way you planned. Avoid the advice of others that is unsolicited and not clearly stated.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are entering a period in which new, interesting acquaintances will come into your life. This is a day to plan expansion.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will need to make a quicker decision between two interesting opportunities, your family shows you the right one for the most successful results.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Join with powerful friends and outside talents in social pleasures. Being tender and loving with your attachment brings you both much happiness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your happiest social moments now will be with close members of your own family. Buy yourself with the personal life that most charms you at home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to accept social invitations today at whatever hour from good friends. Don't let a long-standing discussion arise that can disturb your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go with longtime friends today to satisfying places of entertainment. Expect all kinds of situations to arise at your home with various types of persons.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A trip with a good friend and an outside contact could now be to everyone's benefit. Sudden oppor-

tunity for you and your mate to go on jaunts should be seized.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can be optimistic now that your activities will have beneficial results. Some exciting condition at your home should be enjoyed, as it is soon over.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A temporary return to some longtime interest should not interfere with a new project.

YOUR IDEAS ARE GOOD FOR IMPROVING THE DECOR AT YOUR HOME.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your happiest social times now will be at entertainments with an interesting couple. A fine day to invite younger persons into your home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Changing conditions at home require that you constantly be on the top of things. More romantic interest shown by you would make attachment happy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A variety of persons close to you will aid in new ways to be successful. An influential man who has always been a pioneer will help you in business.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she can see exactly what is needed to get ahead in almost any matter, be it of a personal or business nature. This property can bring harmony between warring factions and put difficult personalities in their proper place without insulting them. Their marriage will be happy.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

Bruno dresses up in sequins but still dreams of Tyson

LONDON (R) — Boxer Frank Bruno may be cast as a magical genie in a children's Christmas comedy entertainment. But he is still under the spell of his old foe Mike Tyson.

Strutting the stage in silver sequins, "Big Frank" still dreams of stepping into the ring once more against the iron fists that smashed his hopes of glory.

As the showman glitters on his shorts and tassel top shimmers in the lights, Bruno co-stars with a fluffy ventriloquist's dummy, an ageing troupe of overweight dancing policemen and a man called wishee washee.

But the 28-year-old Briton is not yet ready to throw in the towel on his fighting career.

"I am ready to face you again," he told Tyson on a British television link-up with New York just before Christmas when the American declared he wanted to fight in London.

Last February Bruno was stopped conclusively in the fifth round of a title fight in Las Vegas by the undefeated world heavyweight champion.

Although he stunned his opponent in the first round, Bruno was floored just 14 seconds into the bout and was lucky to progress as far as he did against the younger Tyson, who was not at his best.

In defeat he became a hero in Britain, a country which always

loves a gallant loser, but few fans had seriously contemplated a rematch until the conversation between the two.

British promoter Jarvis Astaire added later that a title fight in London could be held next year. "The plan is for a fight against Tyson in July or September... as soon as the pantomime is over he'll be getting down to serious training."

The pantomime — a traditional seasonal entertainment for younger children in Britain — is the oriental tale "Aladdin" and stars Bruno as a friendly spirit who materialises to protect the hero from harm at the rub of a magic lantern.

"If Mike Tyson ever did anything like this, I'd be shocked," Bruno told Reuters in his dressing room. "It's not that he's too mean... I just don't think that he's that kind of guy."

Too poor to go to a pantomime as a child, Bruno is now rich enough to have no financial need to fight but clearly finds the lure of the ring still exerts a powerful force.

And it is Tyson he thinks about above all boxers.

But John Morris, secretary of the British boxing board of control — the sport's top authority in Britain — warned Bruno not to take another Tyson challenge for granted.

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For more information, please call 669900 - 666280.

"He will have to prove he can go in as a champion. He cannot live on his Tyson performance for ever," he said.

Many fans were also unsure about the merits of such a fight since Bruno has held a major crown only once — the European heavyweight title, which he won in 1985 — and currently holds none.

"Bruno has done nothing to suggest he can do better than last February," the daily Mirror said. "There's simply no gain in more pain at the iron fists of Tyson."

The sight of Bruno on stage and talk of a rematch has also reopened old sores about the sorry state of British boxing.

For some, Bruno's fame and popularity since losing to Tyson says much about the state of the art in a country which has not had a world heavyweight champion since 1899 but which gave form to the modern sport with the Queensberry rules in 1891.

"It's entirely appropriate to find Bruno in such a role since Christmas panto is almost as traditional a British farce as heavyweight boxing," the daily newspaper Today said.

Others added bitterly that at least it was a change to see a British heavyweight stay on his feet for a few minutes.

"Isn't it worth noting that Frank Bruno, the one boxer guaranteed to put bums on seats, hasn't fought in Britain this year? Indeed he spent less than 20 minutes in a ring in 1989," the

London evening Standard commented.

The article, echoing a pantomime refrain, was headed: "A boom in British boxing? Oh yes there is Oh, no there isn't."

Adding to the debate, retired British and World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight champion Barry McGuigan has also taken to pantomime in reading, west of London, as the wicked Queen's henchman in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Bruno, sensitive to the jibes, defended himself during an interview with reporters before the first night.

"I'm enjoying the acting," he said. "I act all the time — it's just the lines that are a problem."

And his future plans? "I'm a ducker and a diver... whatever comes up I may try it. Whatever suits me."

"But next time I go into the ring I'm going to take my magic lamp with me and make my opponent disappear."

Johnson to keep records until Jan. 19

LONDON (AP) — Ben Johnson will start the 1990s recognised as world's fastest man, but he may formally be stripped of his records a few weeks later.

Mike Gee, technical director for the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said it will be Jan. 19 at the earliest before the IAAF meets to decide whether to wipe Johnson's name from the record books.

Johnson's records in the 100 metres and in the indoor 50- and 60-metre dashes risk being expunged. Also threatened is the women's indoor 50-metre dash record held by fellow Canadian Angela Issajenko.

The IAAF voted in September to strip the world records of

athletes who testify under oath that they were under the influence of drugs when they set the records. The stripping would occur even if an athlete passed a drug test at the time of setting the record.

The changes normally would take place on Jan. 1, 1990, when the IAAF was expected to release its annual list of world records. But Gee said the list will be delayed until an IAAF council meeting Jan. 19-20 in Tokyo.

"There will be no decision until then," Gee said in an interview. "It was thought to be too important, too emotive to do by post, and it was felt that discussion was needed on this matter. The lists will be published immediately after the council meets in Tokyo."

Johnson, who lost his gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics when he failed a drug test, passed a doping test when he set the 100-metre world record of 9.83 seconds at the world championships in Rome in August 1987.

But he admitted under oath at a Canadian government drug inquiry this spring that he had started using drugs in 1981 and was taking massive doses in 1987 before setting the record.

"The IAAF reserves the right to include only records which have been made under conditions that it accepts as satisfactory, and one of those unsatisfactory conditions is the admitted use of dope," Gee said.

"If something was found to exist at the time that we didn't know about, then we reserve the right not to recognise it (record) any more," he said.

THE Daily Crossword by Melvyn L. Rabinowitz

ACROSS

- 1 Gaelic
- 5 Broad sword
- 10 Swiss river
- 13 Eng. statesman
- 14 Worship
- 15 Adhesive
- 16 Summer quencher
- 19 Flatfoot
- 20 Completed
- 21 Nobility
- 22 Solvent
- 23 Beach sight
- 26 Refinement
- 28 Gem
- 30 Krakow citizens
- 31 Observe
- 34 Human agent
- 35 — Lanka
- 39 Solidarity
- 40 Golfing
- 41 Messy shades
- 42 Like some potatoes
- 44 Tacks on
- 47 Saville part
- 48 Merit
- 50 Monastery
- 51 Humus
- 53 Waterzone
- 54 winter liquid
- 57 Law term
- 58 Loose robes
- 59 Coastal bird
- 60 Aves.
- 61 Method
- 62 Unwarmed plant

DOWN

- 1 Grandiose
- 2 Puerto —
- 3 Phase
- 4 Abhor, for more
- 5 US city
- 6 Old sums
- 7 Adventurous
- 8 Previous to
- 9 Dream sleep
- 10 Cottonwood tree
- 11 Wytan
- 12 Hugh —
- 15 Flying pearls
- 17 Hot spot
- 18 TX city
- 22 Tropical tree
- 23 Metal comb
- 24 Fr. city
- 25 Intimidate
- 26 On — with (equal to)
- 27 City on the Adriatic
- 28 Expenses
- 29 Snoops
- 31 Sound of yearning
- 32 To be in Paris
- 33 Ogled
- 35 Gen. Israel
- 36 Arthurian lady
- 37 Run out of the money
- 41 Eastern lan
- 42 Gloomy
- 43 Family circle member
- 44 Orgs.
- 45 Upr
- 47 Tel —
- 48 Like amoeba
- 50 Front part
- 51 Mystic letter
- 52 Copied
- 54 — in the bag
- 55 Negative
- 56 Play a need's

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

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Tel: 634144

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Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema

NIJOUN

Tel: 675571

Rock Morania... in

Honey, I Shrunk The Kids

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Czechoslovak president in East Germany

Europe need not fear united democratic Germany — Havel

EAST BERLIN (R) — Czechoslovakia's new President Vaclav Havel said Tuesday that Europe need not fear a united Germany as long as it was democratic, and offered Czechoslovak help to tear down what remains of the Berlin Wall.

On his first trip abroad since taking office five days ago, Havel said East Berlin and Bonn should wait for the euphoria over the opening of East Germany's borders to the down before deciding their future in consultation with the rest of Europe.

"Democratic awareness and a democratic system in Germany are more important than the possibility that it might become one nation of 60 or 80 million people," Havel told a news conference after meeting East German government leaders.

"Europe need have no fear of a democratic Germany. It can be as large as it wants," he said.

Havel, accompanied by Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, made an unscheduled stop at the Berlin Wall and the Brandenburg Gate during the first leg of his one-day visit to East and West Germany.

"I was amazed the wall was still standing," he said. "(Acting East German head of state) Manfred Gerlach told me work would soon start to tear it down."

"I told him that if he had any problems we could send some independent Czechoslovak workers to help free of charge," Havel said to loud applause.

The wall, built by East Germany in 1961, opened on Nov. 9 last year after a mass popular movement toppled hardliner Erich Honecker.

Havel, the hero of Czechoslovakia's own popular revolt in November, said he hoped East and West Germany would swiftly agree on the future of the two

countries.

"This process must be part of a whole European process. It must be worked out by negotiations, not through wild gestures."

"Much of Czechoslovakia borders on East or West Germany. Germany virtually surrounds us. It must free its neighbours of fear, specifically the fear of a greater Germany," he said.

During his four-hour visit to East Berlin, Havel met Gerlach and East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow, who heads a reformist coalition paving the way for free national elections due on May 6.

He also laid a wreath at East Germany's monument to the victims of fascism in the heart of the capital.

By pointedly avoiding Moscow as his first destination abroad as head of state, Havel has made a clean break with the practice of the Communists who ruled Czechoslovakia for more than 40 years.

"We have come to Germany because we want to make an important contribution to a united Europe," he said.

Havel also met leaders of East Germany's round table conference, a negotiating forum for government and opposition leaders that has so far had trouble in coming to concrete agreements.

The Czechoslovak president said he had discussed the respective progress of the East German talks and a similar round table in Prague.

"At home when everybody gets excited we practice a therapy

of calming down and laughing. That helps us get on with things," he said.

"I tried it in my conversation with Mr. Gerlach this morning and it seemed to work."

In a New Year's Day speech Monday, Havel denounced the economic and ecological wounds left by 41 years of Communist rule and pledged to lead his country to free elections.

"Our country does not flourish... We have the worst environment in Europe," Havel said in Czechoslovak Television just three days after being elected president.

"Out of gifted and sovereign people, the (Communist) regime made us little screws in a monstrously big, rattling and stinking machine. We have become morally sick," Havel said.

Before World War II, Czechoslovakia was an economic power in Europe, but it slid into stagnation under Communist rule, and the environment was devastated.

"We have to accept this legacy as something we have inflicted upon ourselves," said Havel.

He also announced a broad amnesty and sentence reductions for all prisoners except for those imprisoned for murder, rape or sex abuse, and for officials who "abused public authority."

That charge has already been pressed against former Prague Communist Party boss Miroslav Stepan, considered responsible for violent police handling of a peaceful student demonstration on Nov. 17.

Stepan was detained on Dec. 23 and faces up to 10 years in prison if he is convicted.

Also Monday, Communist Premier Marian Calfa said the government intends to adopt free-market principles and increase ties with Western Europe, the Czechoslovak news agency (CTK) reported.

"We shall consistently part with the system of management that prevailed in our country for many years. Our strategic goal is to prepare the transition to a market economy," CTK quoted him as saying.

Calfa said legislative changes will be needed to prepare for full democracy and that work on a new constitution is continuing.

CTK reported. The premier said Czechoslovakia wants to increase its economic ties with Western Europe, CTK reported. He said countries within the Comecon economic bloc of Soviet-allied nations must increase their cooperation and the organisation must be more efficient, according to CTK.

Using the colourful language of a playwright, in sharp contrast to the gray doublespeak of his predecessors, Havel hailed the long struggle for freedom in the East Bloc.

He said "rivers of blood" have flowed through many East Bloc countries over the past four decades, including Romania in the past two weeks, as their people struggled against Communism.

"These great sacrifices are a tragic backdrop of the present freedom or gradual freeing of nations of the Soviet Bloc, that is a backdrop of our newly gained freedom too," Havel said in his 28-minute speech.

Looking into the future, Havel emphasised the need to bring his country to free elections and renew Czechoslovakia's prestige abroad.

"My first task is to use all my authority and influence" so that Czechoslovakia can have "free elections soon and in a dignified way," he said.

The newly chosen president also said he would like to establish diplomatic ties with Israel and the Vatican soon.

Fledgling parties prepare for free elections in Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's fledgling political parties have outlined their policy differences with the ruling National Salvation Front as they hurriedly prepare for the country's first free elections in more than 45 years.

Numbed by four decades of repression, the formerly outlawed parties are dusting off their political programmes ahead of the elections, just four months away.

One of the best-organised, the National Peasants Party, complained Monday that the Front was not giving them time to prepare by scheduling the poll for April, but said they were confident of winning.

Party leaders unveiled a provisional programme promising a return to traditional Christian values and an end to the collectivised farming system that helped reduce the former granary of Europe to a land unable to feed its own population.

Western diplomats said the programme was calculated to appeal to two of the country's most important lobbies, the church and the farmers.

Provisional President Ion Iliescu's plans for agriculture, unveiled in a New Year's message in which he also abolished the death penalty and former leader Nicolae Ceausescu's Securitate secret police, are far less radical.

He promised each farmer

would be allocated 5,000 square metres (just over one acre) to work for himself but stopped short of dissolving the collective farms.

Farmers will still have to give 70 per cent of their produce to the state, but they will be able to set their own market prices for the remainder.

By abolishing the death penalty, Iliescu may also have disappointed countrymen who feel that arrested Securitate officers and remaining members of the former ruling family such as Ceausescu's son, Nicu, should pay for their crimes.

Iliescu and the National Salvation Front are currently trying to fend off accusations that they are backtracking on previous commitments to multiparty democracy.

One of the fledgling organisations, the Romanian Resurrection Party, complained it was not being given television airtime and said former members of the discredited Communist Party were still holding key posts in the administration.

But Western diplomats said Monday that despite pessimistic predictions that the Front and army would tighten their grip on power, they believed democracy stood a good chance in Romania.

"The media here are now so strong, there are enough Romanians who have been exposed to

Western influences abroad, that we believe chances for democracy are good," one diplomat told Reuters.

The Communist Party itself, little more than a personal vehicle for Ceausescu, stands little or no chance in the April elections, diplomats agree.

"It can change its name like some of the other Communist Parties (in Eastern Europe) but that will not help it. It is finished once and for all," said a former leading member of the party, Silviu Brucan.

Life in Bucharest appears to be returning to normal but there was little traffic on the snow-packed streets and few pedestrians braved the icy pavements. No new sniper attacks were being reported and the army presence has been reduced although tanks still guard official buildings.

The leadership of Romania's Orthodox Church Tuesday published the first issue of its religious periodical and a calendar for 1990 that for the first time in many years omitted the once compulsory birthdate of executed dictator Ceausescu in its list of significant events.

"We wish to herald the genuine rebirth of the Romanian Orthodox Church with this first edition and the authentic return to religious life in our beloved country. So help us God," said an editorial signed by Patriarch Teoctist.

Thieves steal cyanide

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (AP) — Thieves stole some highly toxic gold cyanide from an electronics company, and police have issued a nationwide public health warning against the lethal chemical. About a kilogramme of cyanide disappeared from a vault at a Philips factory in Eindhoven along with 600 kilogrammes of less dangerous palladium, apparently in a pre-dawn burglary, according to police spokesman Arie Van der Tooren. Dutch television broadcast a police warning that "inexpert use" of the chemicals, especially cyanide, is "extremely harmful to public health. The missing chemicals, worth nearly half a million dollars, are used to manufacture electronic resistors, Van der Tooren said. He speculated the thieves may have stolen the cyanide in order to extract gold in a process that would release toxic acid.

Fashion designer weds

NEW YORK (AP) — Fashion designer Oscar de la Renta and socialite Annette Reed, a couple about town for several years, have been married. They were married at De la Renta's home in La Romana in the Dominican Republic, the couturier's office confirmed. It was the second marriage for each. The bride, 50, is an active supporter of a number of cultural and philanthropic causes. She is the daughter of Jane Engelhard and the late Charles W. Engelhard, the industrialist and race horse owner.

Lady Chatterley's Lover — a bedtime story on BBC

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of Britons started listening to Lady Chatterley's Lover as their bedtime story Monday night, complete with sexually explicit passages and four-letter words that have outraged anti-pornography campaigners. The British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) decided to go ahead with its 15-part radio adaptation of the unexpurgated version of D.H. Lawrence's novel despite efforts by the country's leading TV watchdog, Mary Whitehouse, to keep it off the air. BBC Radio 4 not only broadcast the first part of Lady Chatterley's romp down the Primrose Path but preceded it with a nearly 2½-hour reconstruction of the 1960 trial at which Penguin Books was charged with obscenity for publishing the unexpurgated version. The ruling at the Penguin trial is regarded as one of the key events that led to a more permissive attitude to sexual morality in the 1960s. Both BBC programmes started with warnings they contained words and descriptions of sexual acts which some listeners might find offensive. It took 30 years from the first printing of "Lady Chatterley's Lover" in Florence to the celebrated Penguin edition of 1960 and another 30 years before the unexpurgated version was judged fit to be heard on radio. The unexpurgated version was published in the United States in 1959. The choice of the original Lady Chatterley's Lover to launch the 42nd year of BBC radio's "A Book at Bedtime" was one of its most daring — and in a highly unusual move was approved by the BBC board of governors normally do not get involved in such programme decisions. Listeners to "A Book at Bedtime" have heard a wide range of titles, from the classics to popular literature. Recent titles include the James Bond thriller On Her Majesty's Secret Service and John Le Carré's The Russia House, read by the author.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	-02	28	02 Cloudy
ATHENS	05	41	11 62 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	17	63	21 70 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	32 90 Clear
BOMBAY	19	65	24 75 Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	06	48	20 68 Cloudy
CARACAS	01	28	01 30 Cloudy
CHICAGO	01	34	02 36 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	01	37	05 42 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	-03	27	00 32 Snow
GENEVA	-02	29	03 32 Cloudy
HONG KONG	15	59	17 63 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	09	59	07 46 Cloudy
LONDON	-03	23	01 34 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	07	44	19 61 Clear
MADRID	05	41	11 52 Cloudy
MECCA	19	66	32 90 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-03	23	01 34 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-07	19	05 29 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	-01	41	15 59 Cloudy
NEW YORK	02	35	08 46 Clear
PARIS	01	30	04 39 Cloudy
ROME	04	25	10 50 Clear
SYDNEY	19	65	26 79 Cloudy
TOKYO	01	34	09 48 Cloudy
VIENNA	-03	27	02 36 Cloudy

President confident Colombia will be free of drug traffickers

BOGOTA (R) — President Virgilio Barco has said he is confident the government's anti-narcotics campaign will wipe out the threat of drug trafficking in Colombia, but warned that Colombians would have to make greater sacrifices.

"Better times are assured for us in the decade that now begins," he said in a televised New Year's Day address. "We can now start expecting a future free of the threat of drug trafficking and terrorism."

He said he was confident that during the 1990s drug consumption would decline considerably because a majority of industrial nations were fighting the demand of narcotics in their countries.

On Aug. 18, Barco launched the government's most sweeping attack ever on the powerful drug cartels of Colombia, which control nearly all the production and export of cocaine in the world.

"It is necessary to keep advancing with firmness and greater sacrifices will be demanded," Barco said of the battle against the drug traffickers.

He did not specify what these sacrifices could be.

"Colombia is today a country which is different in the eyes of the world," he said. "Our homeland is considered a brave country which is fighting to defend its democracy and to protect humanity from the scourge of drugs."

Barco said in his speech that during 1989 the government had struck decisive, well-aimed blows against drug-trafficking criminal organisations.

"Their crimes no longer have impunity," he said. "Our actions will continue until the violent ones are definitely defeated."

The president said drug traffickers — whom he also termed "the violent minorities" — had killed hundreds of defenceless

citizens in indiscriminate terror attacks and murdered prominent public figures in Colombia during 1989.

A drug-backed group, "the Extraditables," declared war on the government on Aug. 24 in response to the anti-narcotics campaign. More than 270 bomb attacks have followed and up to 203 people have been killed in apparent drug-related attacks.

Barco's government struck its biggest blow against the drug traffickers on Dec. 15 with the killing of Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, considered the number two man in the Medellin cartel.

Police describe Rodriguez Gacha as being instrumental in the terror attacks including the bombing of a Colombian jetliner, killing all 107 people aboard on Nov. 27 and a huge bomb which killed 67 people on Dec. 6 in Bogota.

Albania 'to resist' reforms

LONDON (AP) — Albania's leader, Ramiz Alia, vowed in a New Year's message to his nation to stay its socialist course and resist the upheaval that has toppled Communist governments throughout Eastern Europe in the past year.

Albania is Europe's last hard-line Communist state.

"The events that have occurred recently in Eastern Europe have inspired certain known anti-Albanian forces to resume the campaign of slanders against our country," Alia was quoted as saying by the Albanian News Agency ATA.

"But, as our people say, they cannot succeed in doing us harm," he was quoted as saying in Monday's address. The news agency was monitored in England by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC).

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Castro: Cuba will remain socialist

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Fidel Castro vowed Monday that nothing would divert Cuba from socialism, indicating his government would not be swayed by changes in Eastern Europe, the Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina said. "I am sure that we have all the political and moral factors to confront any type of problem and that nothing and no one will make our nation backtrack on the road of socialism," the state agency quoted Castro as saying. He spoke in a televised New Year's message, according to the dispatch, monitored in Mexico. Castro acknowledged Cuba is facing "difficult times" and praised what he called the "exemplary conduct" of the population in coping with the problems. In a Dec. 7 speech during funeral ceremonies for Cubans killed in Africa, Castro said the changes in Eastern European governments would hurt his country, an apparent reference to its isolation and the economic aid it may lose. Referring to the U.S. invasion of Panama, Castro said Cuba fears neither blockade nor direct aggression, Prensa Latina said. "We are not going to allow the enemy to destroy what we are doing," he said.

Pravda unveils new image

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda has begun the New Year with a new look. In what might be called a Madison Avenue image makeover, the daily unveiled a simplified masthead Monday that drops three award emblems and adds a sketch of the newspaper's founder, Vladimir Lenin. An editor's note told readers the change was the first to the masthead since 1972. The word Pravda, which means truth in Russian, now appears larger and the bust of Lenin shows him looking to the left above the phrase, "The newspaper was founded May 5, 1912 by V.I. Lenin." The slogan "workers of all countries, unite," remains atop the masthead but the heading, "Communist Party of the Soviet Union" has been dropped. The changes reflect the newspaper's new leadership and the overall spicing up of Soviet media under President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform campaign of Glasnost, or openness. Ivan T. Frolov took over as Pravda's editor-in-chief in October, replacing Viktor G. Afanasyev, a conservative who had been in the job since 1976. In a message to readers Tuesday, Frolov said Pravda's journalists will try to be "closer to the people" and "give up old stereotypes." He also promised that the newspaper would open itself to "discussion, expression of dissent, socialist pluralism of opinions."

Japanese foreign minister in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Bangkok Tuesday for talks on trade issues and efforts to end the war in Cambodia. On Wednesday, Nakayama will call on Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan and have an audience with King Bhumibol Adulyadej before heading talks with Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila. The talks will focus on the Cambodian war, plans for Asia-Pacific economic cooperation and the regional impact of upheaval in Eastern Europe, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said before Nakayama's departure.

Romanian News Agency changes name

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's national news agency, once devoted to slavish support of executed President Nicolae Ceausescu, announced Tuesday it was changing its name from Agerpres to Rompres. "Agerpres has stopped its activity today Jan. 2, 1990 at noon. From now on you are connected to Rompres News Agency that will supply the news to you," a note to subscribers said. Since the overthrow of Ceausescu, Agerpres has provided a daily "Romanian free press review" and reported extensively on the activities of the new National Salvation Front leadership. In a dispatch Saturday it lamented that under Ceausescu its access to foreign news services was cut off and it had only one foreign correspondent, a special envoy to Moscow. Last week it sent its director-general into retirement and appointed Neagu Udriu, a former senior official at Bucharest Television, in his place.

Man killed in N. Ireland blast

BELFAST (AP) — A man driving his daughter to school died in a car bombing Tuesday and the girl was injured, police said. The car blew up and crashed into a street lamp in a Protestant area of East Belfast at about 9:20 a.m. (0920 GMT), the Royal Ulster Constabulary said. Police did not immediately release the names of the father and daughter, the first victims of 1990 of Northern Ireland's 20-year-old political and sectarian violence. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) is fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland and unite the predominantly Protestant province with the Roman Catholic Republic of Ireland. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing. Police said the man had no connections with the security forces, a main target of the IRA. News reports said he was a taxi driver, and his daughter was a 16-year-old student.

Telephone taps, mail intercepts widely used to spy on Romanians

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Copies of secret state files reveal how a paranoid state spied on its citizens with telephone taps, mail intercepts, photographic surveillance and paid informants.

Copies obtained by the Associated Press detail 12 years in the life of Doru Pavaloae, 48, financial adviser to a bus company, denounced by a schoolmate because he wanted to leave the country.

The documents detail a pervasive nationwide system of internal espionage by security agents of Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, ousted and executed by the December revolution that ended 24 years of his rule.

Pavaloae's file began July 13, 1977, after a chance encounter with an old classmate, with whom he felt comfortable talking about his wish to move abroad, the lack of freedom in Romania and his demand that "Ceausescu must give us food."

The schoolmate, however, was a paid informant codenamed Geamparu (mineral) who denounced Pavaloae in a document that also made allegations about the premarital sexual activities of Pavaloae's first wife and referred to the wealth of her relatives in West Germany.

Geamparu identifies himself in the document as a "former school colleague" of Pavaloae's.

"Doru Pavaloae does not have a job and lives like a parasite. Since the very beginning of the marriage, both of them have wanted to leave the country and go to Germany to his wife's relatives," he wrote.

Pavaloae, in a telephone interview from his home in Focani, 200 kilometres north of Bucharest, said he later suspected his old friend was an informer.

"I suspected him because the security services during interrogations used some of my words when I talked with Geamparu," said Pavaloae.

Early on Dec. 22, hours after Ceausescu's overthrow, Pavaloae was among those who occupied the security forces headquarters in Focani.

Beneath the headquarters, the revolutionaries found an underground bunker with electronic eavesdropping devices, arms and ammunition, and boxes of files

stacked nearly to the ceiling. Pavaloae said it held files on roughly half the adult male population of the city of 100,000 people.

One of them was on Pavaloae himself, and he took it home to have the documents photographed by freelance journalist Liviu Axente, who travelled to Bucharest to make copies available to the AP at Pavaloae's request.

"I wanted to give my name to American journalists in case something happens to me," said Pavaloae, adding that he thought the use of his name could protect him.

He said he was frightened because army officers came to his house Sunday, told him he could make copies if he wanted to, but that he had to return the file to the security headquarters.

Inside his file, which contained three thick ledgers, he found reports from eight informers, including Geamparu, records of telephone taps, copies of intercepted letters addressed to him and photographs of him taken clandestinely.

Over the years, Pavaloae said he began to believe he was under surveillance.

"I felt something was happening with my phone lines, and when I walked down the street, I felt like somebody was watching me. But I couldn't imagine it was really happening," he said.

Copies of his file include documents from the Interior Ministry's Department of State Security seeking authorisation for telephone taps.

One of those, approved by a Col. E. Stoica, covered the period May 23, 1979, to Nov. 23, 1979. It said State Security wanted to know the names and phone numbers of those he contacted and if "there were any discussions with characters hostile to (Communist) Party policy or our state policy."

It also sought to find "the intentions of the target to illegally leave the country."

Pavaloae has been married to his second wife for a year and a half and the couple had a 5-month-old boy. He said eight months ago he applied to emigrate to Israel with his Jewish wife, who has relatives in Israel.

He noted that it was the first

time he officially had asked to leave Romania, a desire he previously had confided only to close friends.

He said Geamparu was a man he had known since his school days, who made a living singing at parties and weddings and listening to the drunken talk of party-goers.

Inside his file, Pavaloae said he found a document identifying Geamparu by his real name. But he said that document was not copied, in the rush to photograph the file for U.S. journalists before it was returned to security headquarters.

Photographs of the ledgers showed them clearly marked "Socialist Republic of Romania, Internal Affairs Ministry, information file for Doru Pavaloae" with the file and volume numbers and the type of information it contained.

The files outline how surveillance spread from the original target to friends and acquaintances.

"They show the pervasive paranoia of a state that felt a need to listen to private telephone calls, read the mail of its citizens, follow them, photograph them, investigate them, interrogate them and recruit their friends as informers."

The story of Pavaloae also points to the Byzantine twists of fate in revolutionary Romania. Axente, the freelance journalist, said Geamparu is a man who "really helped" the revolution, who used the amplifier he uses to sing at parties to rally people on Dec. 22.

So far, said Axente, nobody has confronted Geamparu about his past. He said that right now people are too afraid, too uncertain about the political climate to denounce Geamparu, especially after the army ordered the return of the file.

Pavaloae said he wanted to make the documents public as a way both to protect himself and to fight against the system that violated his privacy.

"I saw all those young children killed by Ceausescu. They were only children, and we are older men and we must fight to final victory," Pavaloae said. "Because there are a lot of men who killed and did dirty business for Ceausescu who are still in power."